ひぐちアサ
HIGUCHI ASA

アフタヌーンKC

アフタヌーン
KC451
おおきく振りかぶって 8
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野球を知らない人でも手に汗にぎる、涙する。

全国高等学校野球選手県埼玉大会。
全員1年の新設野球部・西浦と、
強豪・桐青の熱くて長い
「夏の初戦」が、ついに決着!

面白さ絶対保証の高校野球漫画!

CHARACTER PROFILE

(1) Name (2) Birthdate (3) Bloodtype
(4) Height (5) Calls her son (6) Son calls her

おおきく振りかぶって

KUMIKO OKI

①沖久美子
(Oki Kumiko)
② February 1
③ O
④ 156 cm
⑤ Kazu
⑥ Mom

MIWAKO TAJIMA

①田島美輪子
(Tajima Miwako)
② January 15
③ AB
④ 158 cm
⑤ Yuu
⑥ Mom

CHARACTER PROFILE

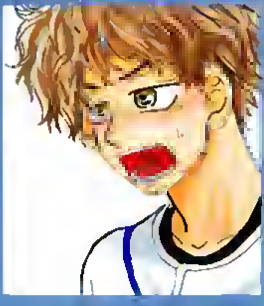
(1) Name (2) Birthdate (3) Bloodtype (4) Height/ Weight at start of school (5) Defensive position (6) Throws/Bats (7) Year and class (8) Family

RURI MIHASHI

①三橋瑠里
(Mihashi Ruri)
② June 26
③ A
④ 152cm / 40kg
⑤ DF
⑥ Right handed
⑦ Year 1, "Pine" class
⑧ Grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, younger brother

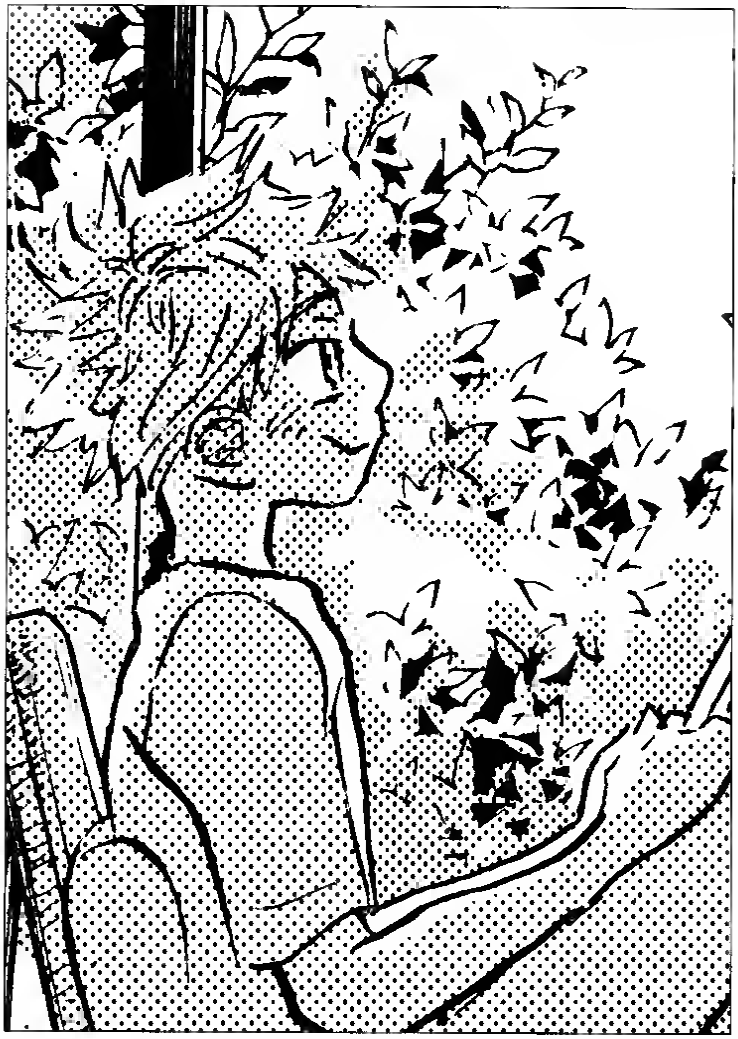
RIOU NAKAZAWA

①仲沢利央
(Rio Nakazawa)
② November 7
③ O
④ 186cm / 68kg
⑤ Catcher
⑥ Bats: R / Throws: R
⑦ Year 1, Class 4
⑧ Father, Mother, Older brother



Cover Design : ARTEN

OOKIKU FURIKABUTTE VOL. 8 HIGUCHI ASA



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BATTING NINTH FOR NISHIURA HIGH SCHOOL,
READY!
ABE-KUN, JERSEY #2.
Chapter 15 The Conclusion!

WHOA!
HE'S REALLY FIRED UP!
MATSUDA! FUKAMI!
THIS IS THE LAST OFFENSE, SO DO YOUR BEST!
YES, SIR!
inhale
SFX: pee pe pe pe

pa!
grip
I'M DEFINITELY GETTING ON BASE!
pa
pa
pa
pa
Go!
pa
pa
pa
pa
lift
pa
pa
pa
pa
tap
tap
straighten
pa
pa
pa
pa
Go!

sfx: swoosh
sfx: thud!
sfx: swing

HE'S PITCHING WITH ALL HE'S GOT.
DAMN IT!

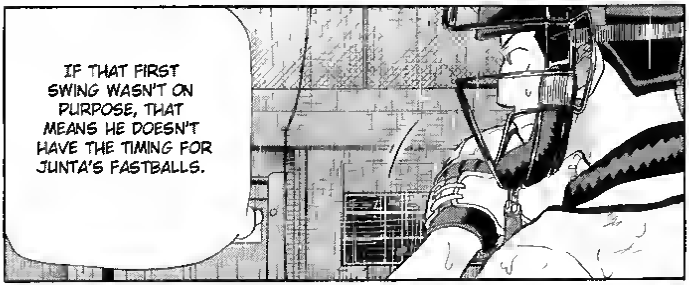
IT'S FAST!

HE'LL NEED GUTS TO MAKE HIS PITCHES WITH BIG STEPS.
THE MOUND SHOULD BE SLIPPERY BY NOW, THOUGH.
whap
Get a hit!
ISEI
Get a hit!
Get a hit!
THE PROB-LEM IS THE FORK-BALL.
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE I GET COR-NERED!
Swish
PFF!
STRIKE!
Smack!

AH, NO,
WHAT?!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
GO ON, SWING! IT WAS A GOOD ONE!
TSK.
HUH?
HEY!
IF YOU DON'T SWING, YOU'LL NEVER HIT IT!
Get a hit!
Get a hit!
WE'VE GOT TO SCORE AT LEAST ONE RUN, SO WE HAVE TO GET ON BASE EARLY!
WELL, HE SHOULD KNOW THAT ALREADY, ANYWAY!
Get a hit!
YEAH.
HANAI INTENDS TO WIN THIS

Get a hit!
Get a hit!
Get a hit!
WE'RE ONLY BEHIND BY ONE RUN AND IT'S THE NINTH INNING ALREADY!
BUT IT'S AMAZING TO FEEL THAT WE CAN COMPETE WITH TOSEI!
IT'S A BIT LATE TO REALIZE IT NOW.
GO WIDE!
CHECK-SWING THE EASY ONES!
I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I DIDN'T WANT TO WIN, EITHER!
EVEN IF WE PLAY INTO THE TENTH INNING AND GET TROUNCED THERE,
THERE WOULD ONLY BE A ONE-RUN DIFFERENCE IN THIS GAME!

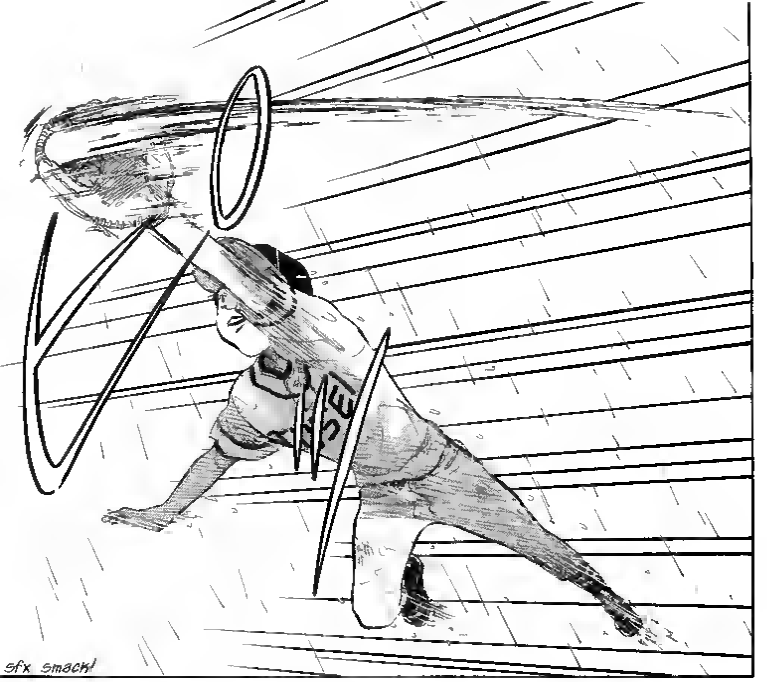
THE PITCHES HE'S BEEN SHOWING ME ARE JUST NORMAL FASTBALLS.
DOES THAT MEAN HIS DECIDING PITCH WILL BE A FASTBALL, TOO?
BALL!
sfx: Smack!


IF THAT FIRST SWING WASN'T ON PURPOSE, THAT MEANS HE DOESN'T HAVE THE TIMING FOR JUNTA'S FASTBALLS.

BUT BECAUSE HE STARTED OFF BADLY, HIS PHYSICAL STRENGTH WASN'T USED UP SO FAST.
whap
Go for a home run!
NORMALLY, I WOULDN'T ASK JUNTA TO THROW CONSECUTIVE FULL-STRENGTH FASTBALLS AT THE END OF A GAME,

go for a home run!
crouch
THE FOOTHOLD IS A LITTLE SCARY, BUT IF FAST PITCHES ARE EFFECTIVE,
THEN I CAN ALSO GIVE IN TO JUNTA'S REQUEST TO NOT MAKE HIM PITCH FORK-BALLS.
whoosh
FIGURE THE TIMING OUT..
Hit it outta there!
WILL I REALLY BE ABLE TO HIT THAT FASTBALL WITH ENOUGH STRENGTH TO SEND IT BEYOND THE INFIELD?
IF THIS'LL REALLY BE A FASTBALL, THEN IT'LL BE THREE PITCHES OF THE SAME KIND!
CAN'T WIMP OUT NOW.
grip

AND HIT IT!
sfx crack!
DON'T GO PAST THE LINE!
IT'S TOO FAST!
FAIR BALL!
sfx "BAM!"


SFX: Smack!

YOU CAN STILL MAKE IT! THROW IT HARD!
clatter clatter
Slide
HE STOPPED IT!

BASTARD!
sfx dash
WHOA!
sfx swoosh
sfx smack!

SAFE!
screech
clench
YES!
WE'RE ON BASE!

THE #9 MADE A RUN FOR IT!
Tsk.
pa pa pa pa ra pa pa ra
THEIR CLEANUP MAN IS ENTERING AS THE BASE COACH?
Oh.
pa pa pa pa ra pa pa ra
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!
THE BASE COACH IS THE CLEAN-UP!
Whoa!
boom boom
Hurray!
boom
YOU CAN SEE HOW MUCH OF A SLOPPY CATCHER I'VE BEEN....
IF YOU LOOK AT TODAY'S SCORE,
Go! Hurray!
grip
THE COACH REALIZED THAT HE'S THE ONLY ONE GIVING SIGNS FOR BASE STEALING.
pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa
boom
boom

JERSEY #8.
BATTING FIRST, CENTER FIELDER, IZUMI-KUN.
SINCE THE CLEANUP BATTER IS THE BASE COACH, THE RUNNER WILL GO AT THE FIRST PITCH.
pa pa pa pa pa pa pa
rustle
JUST FOR ONE PITCH,
LET'S TEST OUT A QUICK ONE!
pa pa pa
LEAD, LEAD!
straighten

HERE IT COMES!
Swish
GO!
flick
SFX: Run
BUNT?!
A SAFETY POSI-TION!

TOSS!
sfx: dash
GO!!
sfx: clink!
HE PUSHED IT!!
sfx. hait

IT GOT BY THE PITCHER!
SFX. bounce
SFX. whap!
RUN FOR IT!

NOT A CHANCE!
FIRST BASE!!
sfx: rush
sfx: run
WHO'S IT GONNA BE?!
sfx: bam!

SAFE!
8
sfx: wave
crowd: whoa!
ALL RIGHT! KEEP IT UP!
IZUMI'S SO FAST!!
nice
run!
squeeze

I HATE TO ADMIT IT,
BUT WE'RE BEING PUSHED DOWN BY THEIR MOMENTUM.
GULP
music: pa8 pa8 pa8 pa8
NO OUTS AND GUYS ON FIRST AND SECOND
EVEN THOUGH NEITHER OF THEM WERE REALLY CLEAN HITS,
sigh
Go!
Go!
WE WEREN'T ABLE TO BEAT THEM TO THE BASES
IN HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL, TEAMS THAT ARE THE OBVIOUS UNDERDOGS END UP WINNING SOMETIMES.
PEOPLE WHO WATCH ARE QUICK TO CALL IT A MIRACLE, BUT...
IT'S REALLY JUST THAT THE OTHER TEAM BEGINS TO BREAK DOWN.
3
music: pa1 pa1 pa8

I'M NOT FALLING FOR IT!
music: pa! para paa paara
IF THE LINEUP ROTATES TO THEIR #3, THEN THE CLEANUP WILL BE ON DECK.
glance
glance
yuuto!
THEN THEY'RE GOING TO MOVE THE RUNNER DURING #2'S AT-BAT.
IF HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE THE CALL FOR THE STOLEN BASE,
JERSEY #4,
BATTING SECOND, SECOND BASEMAN, SAKAE-GUCHI-KUN
READY!

OKAY!
crouch
YOU CAN THROW AWAY THE FIRST ONE!
pat
pat
WE'LL LET THEM SEE IT.
!
pause
pause
LEAD, LEAD!
OH!
THE CATCHER'S GOING FOR IT?!
Nishiura

sfx: shift
LEAD ..
sfx: swish
sfx: thud!
sfx: whoosh!

sfx smack!
cheer Whoaaa!!
おおお
phew
cheer Hey!
THE HELL.
OVER-DOING IT, AREN'T THEY?
TOSEI
TOSEI

music: pa! para! paaa! pa ra
HMM ...
WITH THIS TIMING, IT'LL BE TOO CLOSE.
Nishiura
FROM NOW ON, WE'LL HAVE TO EITHER HIT OR BUNT.
pat
pat
Yuuna
IF IT'S NO OUTS WITH MEN ON FIRST AND SECOND, WE'LL GET A RUN, ANYWAY!
THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE DOING BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T STOP US FROM STEALING THIRD IN THE EIGHTH INNING.
cheer Yuuto!

music: pa! pa ra paa parara
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT EASY.
HE MIGHT HAVE QUITE A BIT OF CONFIDENCE
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO TRY IT AGAIN
#2 HAS DONE THREE BUNTS SO FAR.
cheer Yuuto!
IN THE SECOND AT-BAT, HE POPPED IT UP ON THE FASTBALL.
clench

sfx swish
LET'S MAKE HIM POP IT AGAIN LIKE BEFORE!
TOO FAST ...
IT'S ...
sfx clang!
sfx whoosh

THANK YOU!
NOW IT'S 1-1
HE'S GOING TO TRY AGAIN
music: pa pa pa pa ra ra paa
poff
I GOT SHAKEN UP
IF I DON'T DO IT NEXT TIME, HE'S GOING TO THROW THE FORK-BALL
sfx: swoosh
sfx: clink!
URGH!

cheer: Hit it! Hit it! Hit it! Uuuto!
THROWING A PITCH THAT'S TOUGH EVEN ON SAKAEGUCHI-KUN, HUH?
THE PITCHER'S GOT QUITE A BIT OF POWER LEFT IN THE NINTH INNING.
cheer: Let's get a hit! Uuuto!
THREE BUNTS, AS EXPECTED.
grab
...HUH?
music: pa! para! paaa
EVEN SO, HITTING IT BADLY AND GETTING A DOUBLE PLAY IS WORSE THAN FAILING THE BUNT.
pat
pat
FAST-BALL?
ISN'T IT SUPPOSED TO BE THE FORKBALL?
SO THEN...

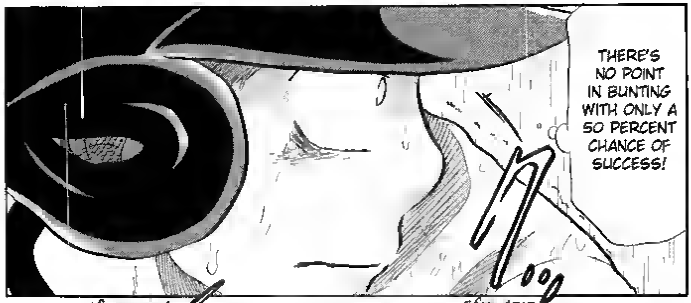
music paa ra
WHOOPS
DID I LOOK THAT TROUBLED ABOUT IT?
cheer Yuuto!
WOULDN'T TOSE! WANT TO USE THE FORKBALL THAT I CAN'T EVEN...
grab
I MIGHT POP IT UP, BUT I CAN CONNECT WITH THE FASTBALL.
badump!
TIME OUT!
WAS THERE A BREAK-DOWN?
EVER SINCE MIZUTANI STRUCK OUT IN THE FOURTH, HE HASN'T BEEN THROWING IT.
NOT SURE.
WELL, HE THROWS ALL THE OTHER ONES LIKE NORMAL, SO IT'S PROBABLY NOT A BIG DEAL.
THERE'S NO FORK-BALL!
cheer Yuuto! music paaa parara
HUH?

SO THE NEXT ONE WILL BE A FASTBALL, TOO!
EVEN NOW, HE'S THROWING THE FASTBALL LIKE CRAZY
OH, RIGHT.
music pal para
HIT A GOOD BLUNT OUT THERE!
WELL THEN,
... OH.
tap
Shock
music parara paa paa parapaa
WELL, ER...
HUH?
SEE YA!
AH! SUYA-MA!!
UMM!!
ERR...
??

OH?
6
squeeze
YEAH!!
grip
6
HA
HA...
AH-
YOU CAN DO IT!!
SFX SQUEEEEZE

IF THERE WERE A RUNNER ON THIRD, IT'D BE AN ALMOST SURE CHANCE FOR A SQUEEZE PLAY, BUT..
cheer Yuuto!
WHAT THE?
cheer Let's get a hit!
ISN'T IT A BUNT?
AT THIS POINT?
sfx crouch
EVEN IF IT'S NOT A BUNT, HE WON'T HIT VERY FAR.
IT'LL JUST BE A SET OF FASTBALLS, BUT THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH!
RIGHT NOW, THE GOAL IS JUST TO HANG ON.
sfx fwap

I SCREWED UP ONCE, SO IF I POP IT UP HERE, I'LL ONLY HAVE A 50 PERCENT SUCCESS RATE.
WITH THIS, I'LL HAVE HAD FOUR CHANCES TO BUNT.


THERE'S NO POINT IN BUNTING WITH ONLY A 50 PERCENT CHANCE OF SUCCESS!

sfx swish
sfx grip

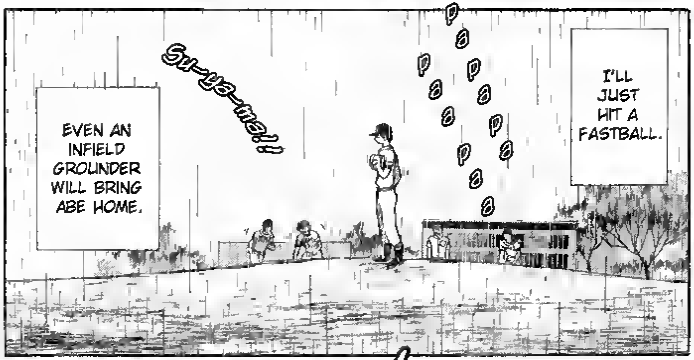
I WON'T CHICKEN OUT!
sfx whoosh
sfx clink!

dash
bounce
IT BOUNCED!
sfx whsp
sfx throw

Nishiura
ONE OUT, RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD!
cheer Nice bunt!
One out!
TOSE!
SFX: step
OUT!
Nishiura
I DID IT!!

A PITCH THAT SAKAEGUCHI-KUN HAD PROBLEMS WITH WOULD BE TOO DIFFICULT TO BUNT FOR SUYAMA-KUN.
NOW THE REAL PROBLEM BEGINS
SO THEN
tap
tap

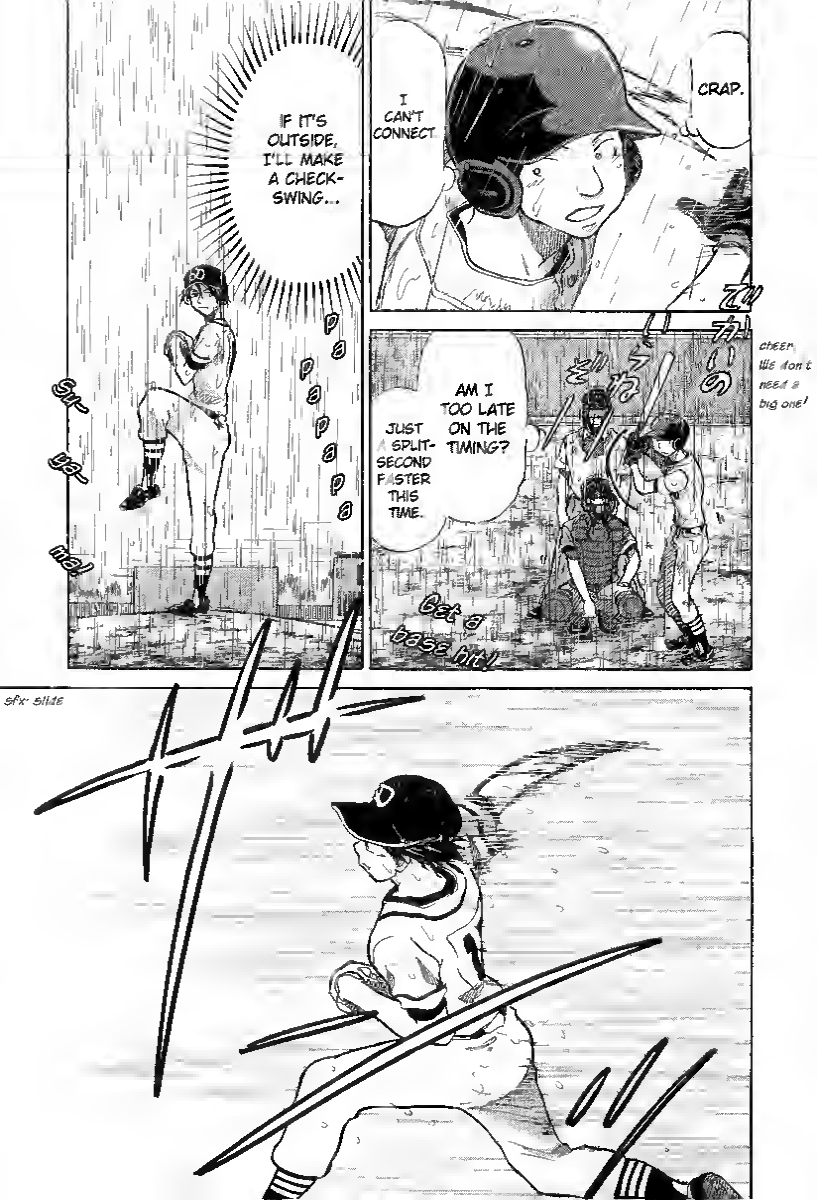
nod
FIRST BASE IS FREE.
NOT SURE WHY, BUT THERE PROBABLY WON'T BE ANY FORKBALLS.


Su-ya-ssa!!
EVEN AN INFIELD GROUNDER WILL BRING ABE HOME.
I'LL JUST HIT A FASTBALL.

sfx grip
NO MATTER WHAT, I GOTTA AT LEAST HIT ONE RUN IN!
THEY'VE ALREADY GOT THEIR GUARD UP AGAINST TAJIMA

IF IT HITS THE GROUND, I'M GOING FOR IT
ONE MORE RUN AND WE'LL BE TIED!
Gu-ga-mah!
da da da da da da da da
tap tap
straighten
papa toot toot
SFX thud
SFX whoosh
Hit

Get a hit!
WAS THAT THE 135-KPH FASTBALL?
IT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS GOING IN, THOUGH.
TOO HIGH!
KEEP AN EYE ON THE PITCHER!
cheer- Su-ge- me!
SFX: Swing
SFX: whap
SFX: fwoosh


IF IT'S OUTSIDE, I'LL MAKE A CHECK-SWING...
papapapa
Sw- ya- ing!
I CAN'T CONNECT.
CRAP.
AM I TOO LATE ON THE TIMING?
JUST A SPLIT-SECOND FASTER THIS TIME.
Get a base hit!
cheer. We don't need a big one!
SFX: SLIDE

CURVE
left finish
WAIT,
WAIT,
WAIT,
WAIT...
CUUUUURVE

STRIKE
THREE!
SFX: whap
WAS THAT THE SINKER ?
.....
SFX: stand

guys, Tajima! Get a hit! We're counting on you!
SFX SQUEEZE SQUISH SQUEEZE
GO FOR IT!
TAJIMA-KUN!
SFX blob
flicks
turn

Mizutani: Don't back down! Mitashi: U-you can do it! Hirai: Uh, that's the spirit!

Yeaaahhh!
JUST ONE MORE OUT.
FINALLY,
TOSEI
pa
pa
pa pa
pa ra
pa
ra
Challenge the batter!
pa
pa
ra
I'LL GO HOME AND EAT 'TIL I PASS OUT,
THEN
THEN I'LL GET ENOUGH SLEEP AND BE READY FOR TOMORROW.
twirl
pa
pa
ra
WHEN WE GET BACK TO SCHOOL, I'LL TAKE A HOT SHOWER.
THEN I'LL BE ALL REFRESHED FOR THE POST-GAME MEETING.
JUST LIKE ALWAYS.
kick

sfx swoosh
THE FIRST ROUND WILL BE OVER!
sfx zing
clank

THE FASTBALL WILL START TO SLOW DOWN A LITTLE.
sfx: fwish
EVEN IN THE LAST INNING AND WITH TWO OUTS, HIS CONCENTRATION WON'T BREAK.
Three outs!
THANKS
I CAN GET THIS GUY OUT WITH A SINKER.
Da Da Da Da
Da Da Da Da
whoop
SEI
IN HIS LAST AT-BAT, WE GOT HIM TO STRIKE OUT ON A SINKER IN THE STRIKE ZONE.
Da Da Da Da
Da Da Da Da
IF IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S IN THE MIDDLE, HE'LL SWING AT IT.
WE'RE STILL WAY AHEAD IN THE COUNT.
GIVE IT YOUR ALL!
Go!
Go!
turn

sfx
drip
sfx whoosh
sfx thud

Toss! Nice pitch!
WE GOT 'EM NOW!
STRIKE!
sfx stretch
Dadadadadadadara
TAJIMA!
GET A HIT!

ALL RIGHT !
sfx pause
straighten
Go for the big one!
Go!
stare
stare
Go!
tap
tap

lift
squeeze
sfx fwoosh
TOSS!

sfx: thr
sfx: whoooosh
THE SINKER !

HERE!
SHUUUU
SFX: Slide

WHAT--!!
RAHH!
SFX: CLANG!

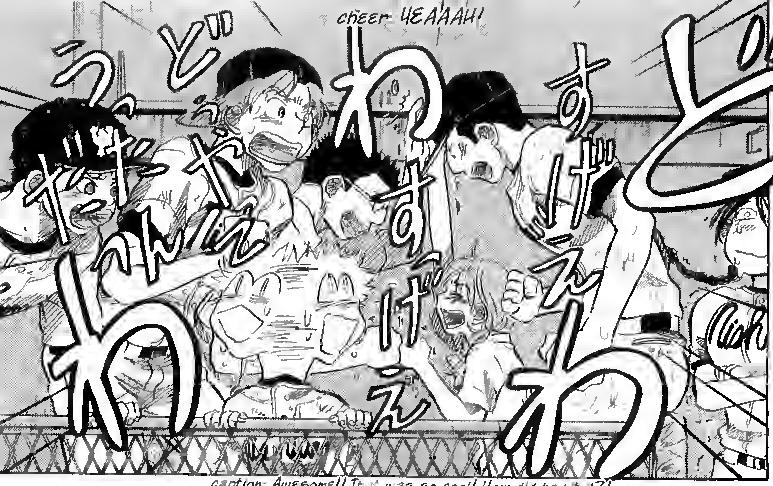
SFX: DASH
Ishiwa
LEFT FIELD!

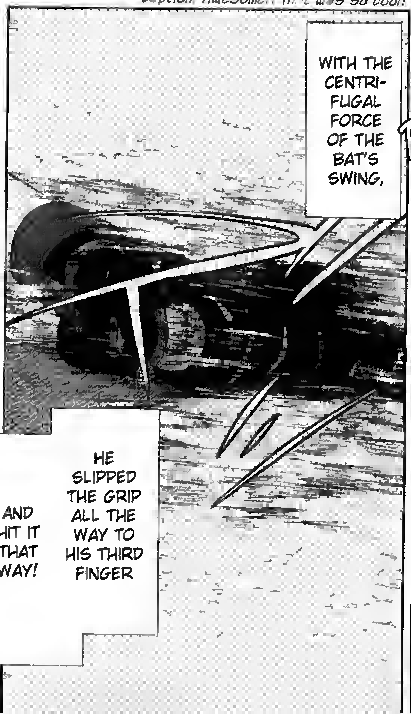
CATCH IT!
IT'S GOING LOW!
sfx: zoom
KEEP GOING !!

IT FELL!
sfx tmd
sfx. slide

TIED!
sfx step
WE'RE IN THE LEAD!
sfx step
Clench

cheer: WHOAAAAAAAA!!
YEAH!
Nishin


cheer YEAAAH!
うぉーおすげえわ
caption: Awesome!! That was so cool! How did he hit it?!


WITH THE CENTRIFUGAL FORCE OF THE BAT'S SWING,
HE SLIPPED THE GRIP ALL THE WAY TO HIS THIRD FINGER
AND HIT IT THAT WAY!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
Wooooh! Tajima!
HIS BATTING STANCE WAS DEFINITELY ORDINARY, BUT...

IT'S NOT THE BATTERY'S FAULT.
I SHOULD HAVE CALLED FOR THAT BATTER TO BE INTENTIONALLY WALKED!
Tajima!
Tajima!
KAWAI!
Soo!
Tajima!
AH... I'M SOR-
WE'RE STARTING WITH OUR LEADOFF AFTER THIS.
Kachink
Tajima!
TIME OUT!
Un.
Kachink

Y...
YES!
WE'LL SCORE RUNS!
clap
ALL RIGHT!
grin
YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR JOB IS, RIGHT?!
pa pa pa pa pa
I'M GLAD THAT IT WAS HIT IN OUR FIRST ROUND.
I KNEW THAT IT WAS BAD FOR US TO RELY ON THE SINKER TOO MUCH.
Get a hit! Kanai!
pa pa pa pa
Go get 'em! Kanai!
WE ALSO HAD TO RECONFIGURE OURSELVES IN THE OPENING.

YOU'VE STILL GOT A JOB TO FINISH!
YES!
Go get 'em! Hanai!
KEEP IT UP!
HANAI!
pa pa pa pa
BATTING FIFTH, RIGHT FIELDER, HANAI-KUN
JERSEY #9.
YEAH!!

whoosh
tap
tap
turn
EH?
ERK!
WOOM

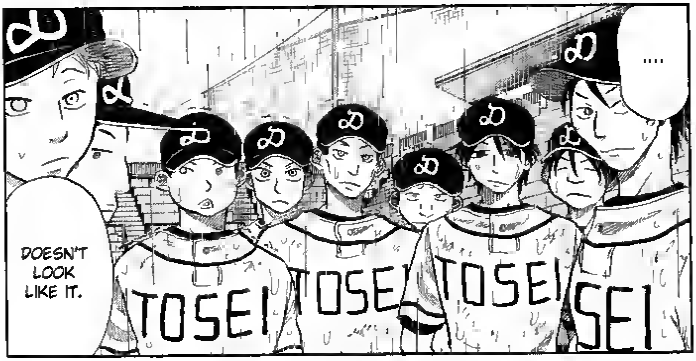
sfx. BAM!
sfx. chink
sfx. fwoosh
WHAT WAS THAT BALL JUST NOW?
...WHA-
THE SINKER?!
Squeeze
Go get 'em! Hanai!
Get a hit! Hanai!
JUST NOW...
thud
WAS THAT

WHAP
FWOOSH
STRI-
I-KE!
HE WAS "CAUGHT" BY THAT FIRST SINKER.
HE CAN'T REACT TO THE FAST-BALLS.
SWOOSH

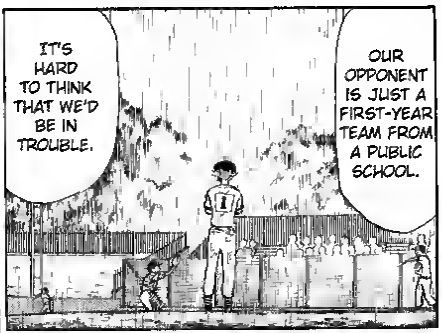
SFX BAM!
STRIKE!
ONE POINT LEAD.
IF WE GO INTO OVER-TIME, WE'LL BE AT A DIS-ADVAN-TAGE.
I WANT IT DECIDED IN THIS INNING!
MIHA-SHI!
UH-
AHA.
Jump
?
WHAT WAS THAT ?
COME ON, LET'S FINISH THIS!
UH!
Jump
Whap

IF WE CAN KEEP IT LIKE THIS,
WE'LL WIN
SAKAE-GUCHI-KUN AND TAJIMA-KUN...
THEY SCORED FOR US!
A-
ABE-KUN AND
IZUMI-KUN AND
WE'LL WIN!!
IF I DON'T
LET THEM HIT,

THE DIFFERENCE IN POINTS NOW...
DID ANYONE HERE IMAGINE THIS WOULD HAPPEN?


....
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT.
TOSEI
TOSEI
TOSEI
SEI

TO BE HONEST, I UNDERESTIMATED THEM, TOO.


IT'S HARD TO THINK THAT WE'D BE IN TROUBLE.
OUR OPPONENT IS JUST A FIRST-YEAR TEAM FROM A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT IS REALLY ROUGH!
4

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TOLD MYSELF THAT,
I NEVER REALLY UNDER-STOOD IT.
BUT EVERYONE UNDER-STANDS NOW, RIGHT?
YES!
YES!
YES!
TOSEI
RIGHT.
IT'S GOOD YOU ALL GOT IT BEFORE THE END.
ONE INNING LEFT!

caption HÉAH!
FIRST, WE'LL TAKE ONE POINT!
はい!!
OSEI TOSE

sfx HÉAH!
はい!!
LET'S END THIS GAME AND GET THE SCORE WE EXPECTED!

WE'LL BE FINE IF WE END THIS INNING WITH THAT POINT.
IF WE GO INTO EXTRA INNINGS, WE'LL DEFINITELY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE.

おおお
LET'S WIN THIS!
caption HEAAAH!
おおおお
Flinch
Flinch
ONE MORE IN-NING
I HAVE TO HOLD THEM OFF SOME-HOW.

BOTTOM OF THE NINTH INNING, TOSEI HIGH SCHOOL AT BAT.
clap
clap
clap
pa
pa
pa
pa
pa
cheer MASHI-BA!
BATTING FIRST, THIRD BASEMAN, MASHIBA-KUN.
JERSEY #17.
clench
BRING IT ON!
pa
pa
pa
pa
pa
pa
pa
pa
pa
THE STRAIGHT PITCH IS DEFINITELY A CHANGE-UP THEY'VE BEEN SAVING 'TIL THE END.
I JUST REALIZED
AT THE END OF THE EIGHTH, THEY ONLY THREW FASTBALLS AT MAEKAWA.
mashiba!

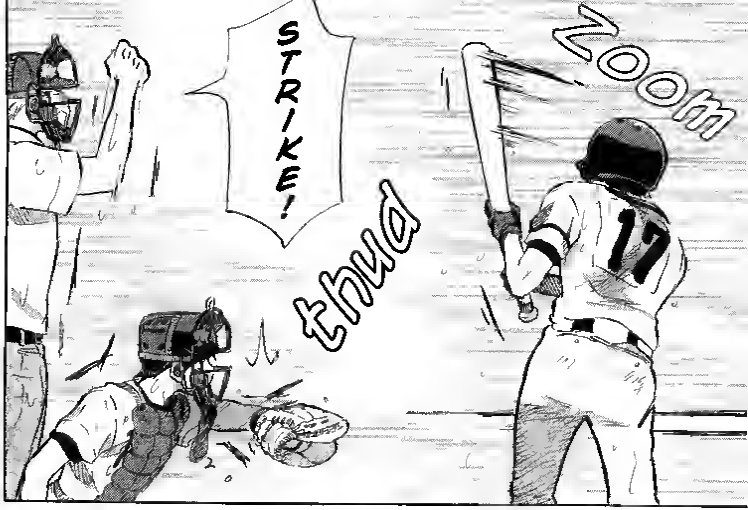
WE NEED A BREAK-THROUGH!
NO MATTER WHAT THE TRICK TO IT IS, THE REGULARS WOULD BE ABLE TO HIT IT IF THEY PRACTICED FOR JUST A DAY.
IT'S THAT FAST-BALL.
THERE WON'T BE ANY WALKS.
IT'S THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH ALREADY.
THEY EITHER POP IT UP OR STRIKE OUT.
HE'S EITHER RELYING ON HIS RUNNING SPEED OR HE'S WATCHING THE PITCH. WELL, EITHER WAY...
A BUNT?
FIRST, I'LL SET UP A BUNT TO WATCH THE BALL.
JIN!
bena

straighten
ABE-KUN WANTS HIM TO POP IT UP ON MY "FASTBALL."
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL WHEN THERE'S NOBODY ON BASE.
tap tap
Let's get a hit!
A FAST-BALL.
nod
Mashiba!
IN THE CORNER!
sfx swoosh
sfx zoom
THE STRAIGHT PITCH!

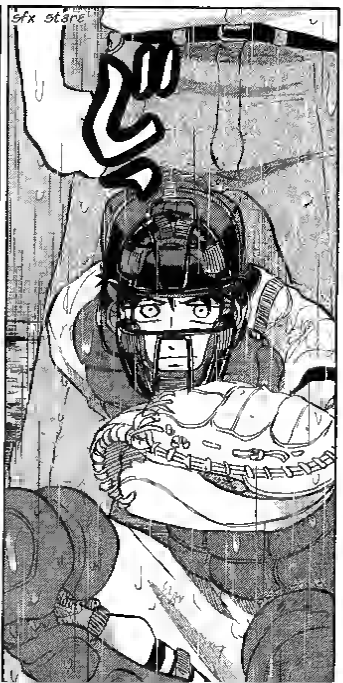
STRIKE!
step
ทหม
Mashiba!
HE PULLED BACK
Shrk
pa
boom
pa
IS IT HIS UNIQUE PITCH?
pa
pa
pa
boom
IT'S NOTHING FANCY, REALLY.
JUST TWO OR THREE MORE AND...
THEY'RE JUST THROWING THE "FAST-BALLS" AWAY?
pa
pa
fwip

I'LL BE ABLE TO BUNT IT FORWARD!
grip
badump
ANOTHER "FAST-BALL" DOWN THE MIDDLE!
Nishimura
IF HE'S THROWING IT, THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON TO PITCH IT.
tap tap
WE HAVEN'T USED IT UNTIL NOW,
SO THEY CAN'T HIT THE "FASTBALL" YET.
boom
boom
straighter
IN THE LAST HALF, HE'S BEEN ASK-ING FOR A LOT OF "FAST-BALLS."
JUST LIKE ABE-KUN PLANNED.
Mashiba!
badump
badump

NOW, THIS BATTER IS FOCUSING ON WATCHING MY PITCH.
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY DON'T REALIZE THE TRICK WHEN THEY SWING AT IT...
TO CATCH ON!
sfx: Swoosh
sfx: Swip
I'M SURE
badump
THEY'RE STARTING
badump


STRIKE!
thud
Zoom
17

Jump
ACK!


SFX STARE

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ABE?!
beating

sfx smack!
sfx whoosh
Mashiba!
ABE-KUN IS READING MY MIND THROUGH THE PITCH-ES!
E-EVEN THOUGH I'M FOLLOWING THE SIGNS,
tyro
badump
badump
pa
pa
pa
pa
pa
pa
pa
pa
slam
WHEN I TURN AROUND, THE "FASTBALL" SIGN WILL BE THERE.
I CAN'T SHAKE MY HEAD.
badump
badump
ABE-KUN...
HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW MUCH MY FASTBALL'S BEEN HIT BEFORE.
Go get 'em!

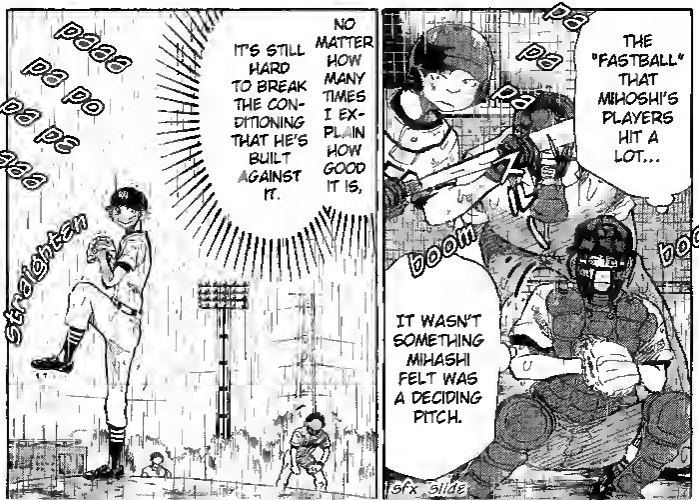
HE'S GOING TO GET IN TROUBLE!
WHAT IS HE DOING?!
MIHA-SHI!
THEIR LEADOFF HAS SEEN TWO FAST-BALLS.
badump
badump
Mashiba!
PLAY BALL!
HE'S GOING TO HIT IT!
boom
WHERE'S THE BALL?!
gasp
YEAH!
twirl
YOU'RE OKAY, RIGHT?
RI-
shake
shake
tap
tap
RIGHT HERE!

badump
badump
I'M AFRAID TO USE THE FAST-BALL.
I WANT TO USE A CHANGE-UP
badump
sfx: BAM!
THAT ANNOY-ING SMILE OF HIS IS GONE.
IF YOU'RE THAT SCARED OF THE "FASTBALL,"
I'LL TEACH YOU WITH THIS ONE THAT THE OTHER PITCHES ARE EVEN SCARIER!
tap
tap
boom
boom
A SHOOT PITCH THAT TURNS FROM A STRIKE TO A BALL.
IF THE BATTER IS THROWING AWAY FAST-BALLS, HE'LL TRY FOR THIS ONE!
...OH!
THE SHOOT PITCH IS OKAY?
Nishiura
Mashiba!

HE PROBABLY DIDN'T USE THE "FASTBALL" MUCH DURING THOSE GAMES.

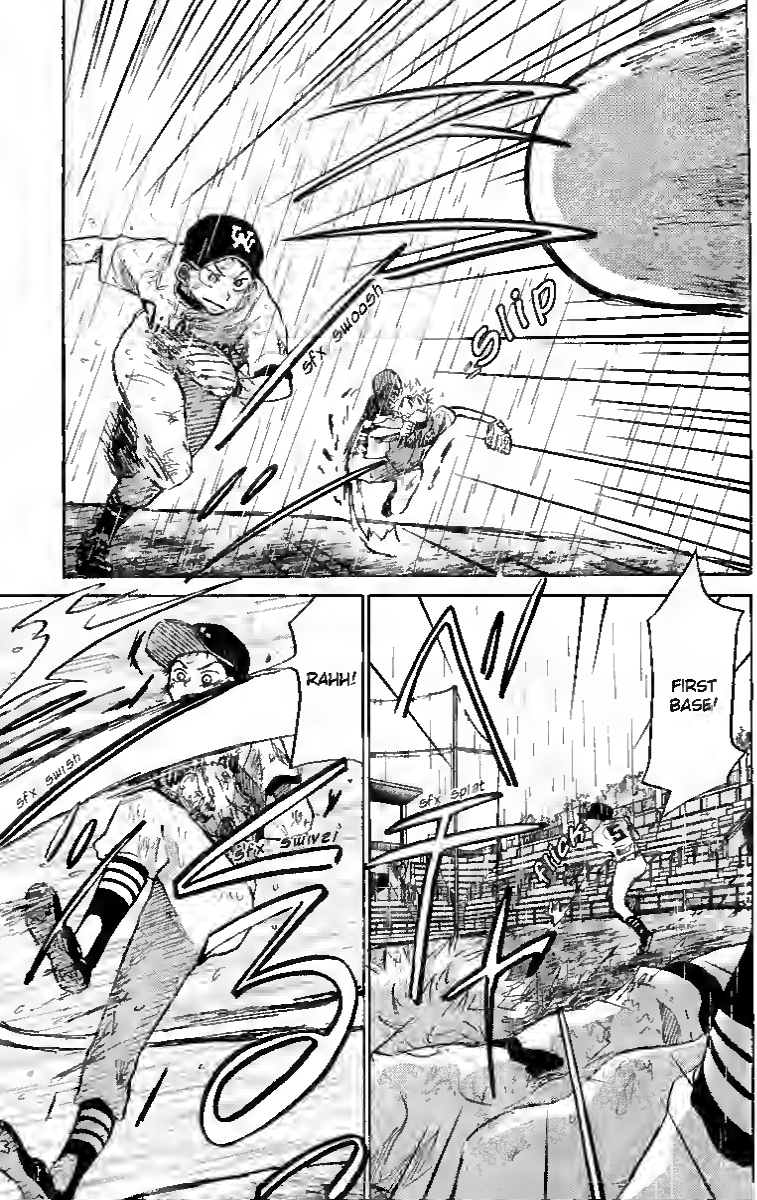
BECAUSE HE WAS WITH HATAKE, HE ALWAYS CHOSE HIS OWN PITCHES.

IN JUNIOR HIGH,


paaa pa po pa pe paaa
straighten
IT'S STILL HARD TO BREAK THE CONDITIONING THAT HE'S BUILT AGAINST IT.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I EXPLAIN HOW GOOD IT IS,
pa pa pa
THE "FASTBALL" THAT MIHOSHI'S PLAYERS HIT A LOT...
boom
boom
IT WASN'T SOMETHING MIHASHI FELT WAS A DECIDING PITCH.
sfx slide

WE'LL WIN AGAINST TOSE! USING THE "FASTBALL" AS OUR MAINSTAY . . .
AND PROVE TO HIM HOW GOOD THAT PITCH IS!
sfx: swish
sfx: zoom
!
THE SHOOT!
TOSE
IT'S NOT DROP -PING!

A BALL?! NO!
I'LL REACH IT!
SFX: CLANK
IF I CATCH IT, IT'S AN OUT!
AT THE PITCHER'S FEET!
BOUND
ぬるっ


SFX SWOOSH
SLIP
RAHH!
SFX SWISH
SFX SWIVE!
FIRST BASE!
SFX SPLAT

SFX: STOMP
SFX: WHAP
SAFE!
IT'S CLOSE!
SFX: WAVE
SAFE!

We're on base!!
SAFE!
WAVE
YES!
pa
pa
pa pa
para
pa
para
pa
THE PITCHER TRIED TO RUN AWAY BY THROWING A CHANGE-UP, BUT WE CAUGHT HIM INSTEAD!

MY SHOOT
PITCH ...
Pant
I THOUGHT IT WOULD HIT OFF THE EDGE AND GO FOUL, AND THEN HE WOULDN'T GET A CHANCE TO RUN.
pa
pa
pa

MIHASHI!
badump
IF YOU CAN'T PITCH, THEN SWITCH OUT!
freeze

THIS ISN'T MIHOSHI!
IF YOU CAN'T PITCH ANY-
LET ON ALONE,
OR HANAI HAVE THE MOUND!
tUnk
!
badump
Shock
Nishiura
nod
ABE-KUN'S PLAYING THE BAD GUY!
EVEN THOUGH HE DOESN'T WANT HIM TO SWITCH ...

badump
turn
ERK!
Stand
...OH?
Nishuuu
HE STOOD UP.
OH...
YEAH!
GET THE BALL?
CAN I
FHP
turn
DAMN YOU, ABE.
I HAVE TO PLAY ALONG, SO I CAN'T SAY I DON'T WANT TO SWITCH....
LOOK, MIHASHI'S STARING AT ME...
glance
glance
fwip
whap
hehe.
Ehe?

IF I WERE PITCHING, I'D HAPPILY SWITCH OUT FOR A RELIEVER.
... YEAH.
THERE'S NO WAY I'D WANT TO PITCH AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
IT'S LIKE A PITCHING ADDICTION.
BUT HE WANTS TO DO IT ANYWAY.
I DON'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE
PLUS, HE'S UBER SCARED,
MIHASHI DOESN'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE, EITHER.
BUT HE'S WILLING AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!
THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY WE'RE SUPPORTING,
Mishima

I'M NERVOUS, BUT I WANT TO PITCH.
Go!
Go!
I'M AFRAID, BUT I WON'T LEAVE THE MOUND.
Hit it outta there!
I'M SCARED,
BUT I'M NOT GIVING UP THIS SPOT TO ANYONE!
pa
para pa para pa
ALL RIGHT, HE LOOKS SERIOUS AGAIN!
tap tap
pa pa pa
EVEN THOUGH I TOLD HIM YESTERDAY TO "JUST FOLLOW MY LEAD,"
pa para pa
THAT'S PROOF THAT HE REALLY DOES WANT TO WIN THIS GAME.
pa pa

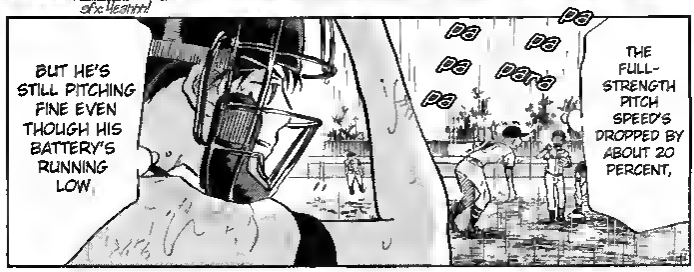
THAT'S A GOOD SIGN FOR MIHASHI.
We'll claim the victory!
PUT ALL THAT ENERGY INTO THE PITCH!
THAT LAST SHOOT PITCH WAS KINDA IFFY.
Straighten
MY ARM ISN'T ROTATING AS WELL ANYMORE.

IT'S BECAUSE MY FEET AREN'T
Kia-sa
yaaaan!
PLANTED AS WELL ANYMORE, EITHER ...

sfx pa pa para
THE SIGN'S FOR A FULL-STRENGTH PITCH
pa pa para
I DON'T WANT TO GET REPLACED, SO I HAVE TO THROW
pa pa
lift
pa pa para

A REALLY GREAT PITCH!
sfx dash
sfx whoosh
GO!
sfx swish
sfx slide
SEI
sfx whoosh

NO OUTS, RUNNER ON
SECOND!
SAFE!
WAVE


pa pa pa para pa pa
THE FULL-STRENGTH PITCH SPEED'S DROPPED BY ABOUT 20 PERCENT,
BUT HE'S STILL PITCHING FINE EVEN THOUGH HIS BATTERY'S RUNNING LOW.

pat
pat
WE GOTTA KEEP HIM FROM ADVANC-ING.
THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET TO TWO OUTS BEFORE THEIR CLEANUP HITTER STEPS IN.
AT THIS POINT, WE HAVE TO GET THEM OUT ONE AT A TIME.

lift
go for it!
go get 'em!
DOWN THE MIDDLE!
grip
HANG IN THERE, MIHASHI!
SFX: WHAP
STRIKE!
IT DIDN'T LOOK THAT WEIRD, THOUGH.
THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE TRYING TO TELL ME, TO WATCH OUT FOR THE FASTBALL THAT FLATTENS OUT.

BUT I HAVE TO THROW THE FAST-BALL!
nod
I KNEW
You've got 'em now!
nice pitching!
HE'D WATCH IT.
lift
I DON'T WANT TO ...
sfx whoosh
GET OFF THE MOUND!!
Nishiura

sfx swing
sfx whap
sfx Yeahhh!
THREE PITCHES, THREE STRIKES!
YES! JUST TWO MORE OUTS!
STRIKE THREE!
bam

HOW WAS IT?
SORRY, IT LOOKED LIKE A NORMAL PITCH
I DUNNO WHY I COULDN'T HIT THE BALL....
pat
IT'S OKAY LEAVE IT TO ME.
THOSE WEREN'T NORMAL PITCHES.
MASAYAN JUST COULDN'T SEE IT.
BATTING THIRD, SECOND BASE-MAN, SHIMAZA-KI-KUN.
pa para pa para
Ready
Shin—
Goooo!
LAST TIME HE WAS UP, I THINK WE GOT HIM OUT ON THREE FASTBALLS.

DON'T BACK DOWN!
cheer Shingo!
I'LL BE ABLE TO DO WHATEVER I WANT WITH IT.
IF I CAN GET A HOLD OF THAT PITCH JUST ONCE,
I BET HE STILL CAN'T GET A HOLD OF A PITCH DOWN THE MIDDLE!
tap tap
HE WHIFFED IT AND STRUCK OUT LAST TIME.
sfx clink
sfx shift
HIGHER THAN I THOUGHT!

IT STILL POPPED UP.
papara pa
poff
JUST A LITTLE HIGHER THIS TIME.
shff
WORST-CASE SCENARIO, I'LL JUST HIT THE THIRD PITCH TO ADVANCE THE RUNNER
JUST A LITTLE ADJUST-MENT FOR THE NEXT PITCH.
DON'T RUSH IT
pa
rara
pa
IT MUST NOT BE A BIG DEAL FOR TOSEI IF WE GO INTO EXTRA INNINGS.
para
pa
tap
tap
para
ra
pa
I GUESS THEY'RE PLANNING ON JUST CATCHING UP.
HE'S SETTING UP TO BUNT FOR THE SECOND PITCH, TOO.

cheer: Hit a big one! Shi-n-go!
FIRST PITCH,
stretch
FAST-BALL,
sfx: pose
IF WE LET IT GO OVER, WE'RE GOING TO LOSE FOR SURE.
I CAN'T LET THE RUNNER MAKE IT TO THIRD!
sfx: fwoosh
HIGH AND INSIDE.
sfx: zoom
A FAST ONE!
sfx: clink

sfx: slide
sfx: dash
I GOT IT!!
sfx: uhhm
DAMMIT!!
badump
sfx: badump
UH-OH
HERE HE COMES
step
squeeze
squeeze
step
IT
SLOWED DOWN, SO HE'S A-ANGRY ...
MY...
MY ..
FAST-BALL ...
pam
pam

HE'S NOT ANGRY?
pant
toss!
MY BAD!
.!?
whap
music pa pa ra pa pa ra
IF A BASE HIT IS FINE, NO MATTER HOW CAREFUL THEY ARE, THREE BUNTS SHOULD BE POSSIBLE.
BUT...
music pa pa ra pa pa ra
FIRST AND THIRD, ONE OUT! GET READY FOR A BUNT!
I DON'T THINK SHIMAZAKI HAS FIGURED OUT THE FASTBALL DOWN THE MIDDLE.
cheer Shi-n-ga!
sfx grip
IF I'M THE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE OUT COUNT,
DOWN THE MIDDLE IS THE SAFEST WAY TO GO!
EVEN IF HE DOESN'T MAKE THE STANCE, THERE'S A CHANCE OF THREE BUNTS.

pa pa ra
pa pa ra
IF THAT CATCHER'S THINKING I'M GOING FOR THE SAC BUNT, HE'S PROBABLY CALLING FOR ANOTHER PITCH DOWN THE MIDDLE.
THAT'LL BE THE SIXTH ONE
EVEN WITH A BUNT JIN WILL ADVANCE, BUT...
turn
BUT IF I HIT IT,
THEN HE MIGHT NOT THROW IT SO MUCH WHEN TAKE'S UP.
SQUEEZE
ABE-KUN ISN'T
ANGRY ?!
sfx. whoosh
Nice!

HOW D'YOU LIKE THIS?!
SEE, IT'S A FAST-BALL!
Swing
sfx crack
Shift
sfx flap
HE CAUGHT UP WITH IT?!

sfx: whoosh...
IT STAYED UP!
NO, THE THIRD BASEMAN WAS CLOSE!!
IT'S STILL NOT ROLLING!
IT'S NO GOOD?!

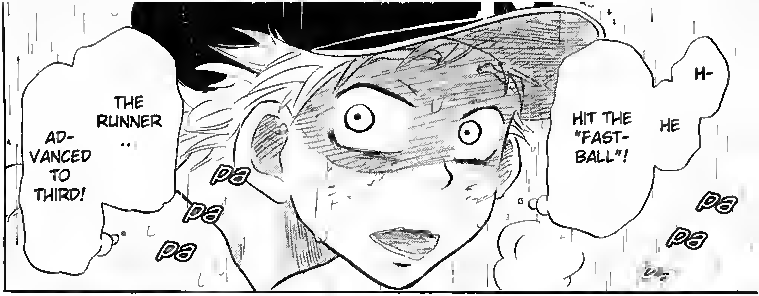
IT'S GOING OVER!
I CAN'T REACH IT!
sfx: bam
sfx: whaa
IT FELL!
slide
bounce

I CAN MAKE IT IN TIME!
SINCE TAJIMA SENT IT IN THE RIGHT DI-RECTION...
FIRST BASE!
sfx swoosh
whoop
slide
I CAN'T GET A GRIP?!
sfx snap
sfx whoosh
whirl
UWAH!

HE OVER-THREW IT!
sfx: dash
MAN ON SECOND'S RUNNING!!
sfx: fwish
I'LL GET HIM AT THIRD!
HE'S GOING!
sfx: whap

sfx: zoom
sfx: crash
SAFE!!

para
para
papara
ONE OUT, RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD!
Hey!
Hey!
WE MESSED UP!
THEY'RE PULLING IT OFF!
papa
ppa
para
Go!
THIS COULD END UP BAD...
Go!


H-
HE HIT THE "FAST-BALL"!
pa
pa
THE RUNNER ..
AD-VANCED TO THIRD!
pa
pa
pa

SHINGO-SAN FINALLY HIT THAT FASTBALL!
IS HE GOING TO SWITCH OUT HIS CHANGE-UP?
papa
pa
sfx grip

AND THE NEXT BATTER IS THE CLEANUP!!
papara
papara
Gooo!
toot
toot
sfx whoosh
NOSE
Aoki!
pa
para

OR IS HE GOING TO KEEP USING THE FASTBALL?
papapa
Ready!
WHAT-EVER HE THROWS,
14

sfx: sniff
IF I DON'T BRING IN A RUN HERE, I'M NOT DOING MY JOB AS CLEANUP!
IT'S ONE OUT WITH JIN AS THE RUNNER ON THIRD!
music: papapa papapa papapa
WE'LL END THE GAME THIS INNING!
TAKE WILL SCORE A RUN.
2
cheer: Aoki!
SHIMAZAKI HIT THE FASTBALL AFTER SEEING SIX OF THEM.
I SHOWED AOKI FOUR OF THEM IN THE LAST AT-BAT, BUT...
AFTER THAT, I'LL SCORE ANOTHER

RIGHT NOW, HE HASN'T FIGURED OUT THE "FASTBALL."
tap
tap
EVEN IF WE CHANGE TO ANOTHER PITCH, THE FIRST ONE HAS TO BE THE "FASTBALL!"
THE FAST-BALL ..
IT ...
badump
IT WAS HIT JUST NOW,
BUT ABE-KUN HAS TO HAVE AN IDEA.
sfx BADump
I HAVE TO PITCH LIKE ABE-KUN TELLS ME TO.
shrf
EVEN IF I WANT TO USE THE CHANGE-UPS,
THEY'VE AL-READY
ドキ
FIGURED OUT HOW TO HIT THOSE, TOO!
TOSEI HAS
badump
badump
ba dump
ALREADY GOTTEN A HOLD OF ME...

EVEN SO,
I WON'T GET OFF THE MOUND.
badump
badump
IT'S JUST LIKE...
badump
pa pa pa pa pa pa pa
...IF I KEEP GOING LIKE THIS...
badump
WE'RE ALL GOING TO LOSE.
badump
JUST LIKE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
COME ON! BRING IT ON!

LET 'EM HAVE IT, PITCHER!
ONE OUT!
YEAH! HIT IT TO THIRD!
sfx: b dump
Slide

MIHA-SHI!
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST, SO JUST THROW YOUR BEST PITCH!
IF YOU CATCH IT, THROW IT HOME!
MIZU-TANI!
GOT IT!

....
NO MATTER WHAT, IF YOU PITCH YOUR BEST, NOBODY'S GOING TO COMPLAIN!
WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

HANAI-KUN... ISN'T ANGRY WITH ME?
THE SPEED AND ROTATION OF MY PITCHES HAVE FALLEN SO MUCH,
BUT I KEEP ON PITCHING... SO WHY ARE THEY...
sfx: grip
NOBODY IS...?
PLAY BALL!
whap
BEING SO NICE TO SOMEONE LIKE ME?!
sfx: fwoosh

SFX CRACK
FAST-BALL!

sfx ZOOM
CENTER FIELD!
IZUMI-KUN!
sfx dash
WE'LL WIN BY THROWING!
I'LL CATCH THIS ONE, MIHASHI!

SFX: DIVE
GO!
Slide
OUT!
SFX: DASH

SFX: whip
HANAI!
SFX: WHOOSH!
HOOOAAAARGGGH!

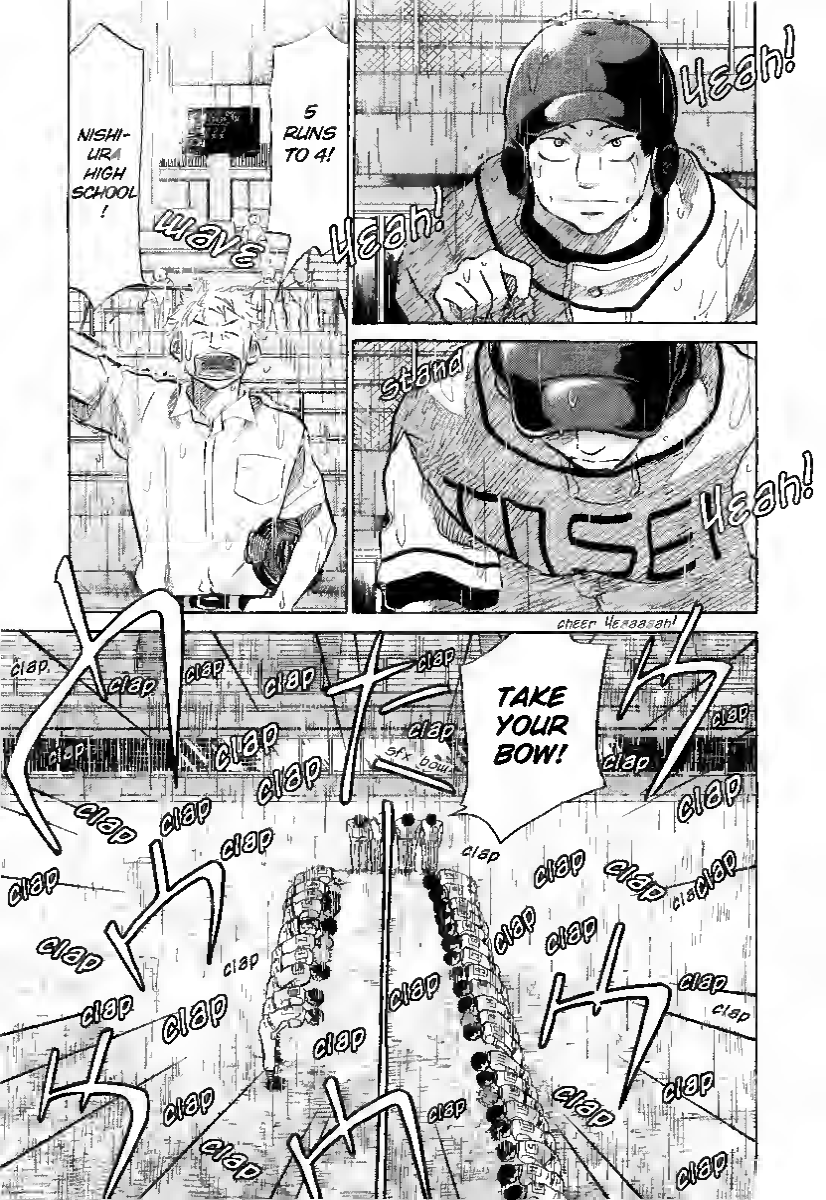
SFX ZOOOM
SFX SLIDE

セハート

OUT!

WHOAA!!

あ
あ
あ


NISHI-URA HIGH SCHOOL!
5 RUNS TO 4!
Wave
Yeah!
Yeah!
Stand
Yeah!
cheer Yeaaaaah!
clap
TAKE YOUR BOW!
sfx bow

ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GREET THE CHEER SQUAD!
Yeah!
Nishiura
Nishiura
THEY'RE COMING OVER HERE!
WAH!
OH, GOD, THIS IS TOO MUCH!
W-
WH-
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!
clap
clap
clap
clap
step
step
clap
clap
flap

caption: Thank you very much!

sfx: clap clap

tie
TOSEI
AH...
BONK
KAZUKI, YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN?!
WOW!
OH REALLY?
MAKE SURE YOU GIVE IT YOUR ALL TO SUPPORT YOUR TEAM!
THE COACH IS SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING
A GUY LIKE THAT HAS RECOGNIZED YOU
HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF AND DO YOUR BEST!

14
2
SQUEEZE
YOUR FAMILY WILL BE CHEERING YOU ON!
Victory prayer charm.
caption Yes sir!
はい!
TOSEI
TOSEI
sfx stand
LET'S GET GOING!
DON'T MAKE THE NEXT TEAM WAIT!

KA-
KAZU-
SAN.
I...
I'M...
SORRY
I'M SO SORRY...
pat
FORGIVE ME...
THERE'S NOTHING YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR.

I..
I WANTED US TO
PLAY
TOGETHER MORE...!
sfx: flap
sfx: grab
I'M SORRY I WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH!
U...
UU...
I WANTED TO HELP YOU PITCH BETTER!
#4

Waaaaah!
Hagggah!
SEI

sfx: Uh... hic
Ahhh
hic
sob

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S OVER FOR KAZU-SAN
DAMMIT!
FINISH UP YOUR COOL-DOWNS!

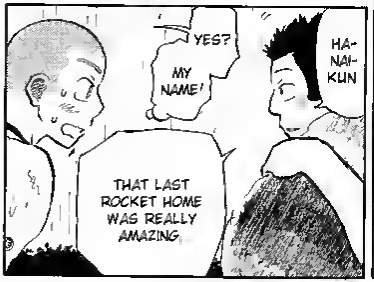
Yes, ma'am!
はい!!
EH?
S-
SCHOOL?
SINCE IT'S RAINING, WE'RE GOING TO SPEND THE DAY AT SCHOOL!
IN THE AFTER-NOON,
WE'LL HAVE A MEETING ABOUT TODAY'S GAME BEFORE PRACTICE!
THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO DO IS CHANGE CLOTHES!
caption Yes ma am!
WE WON, BUT IT WAS AN EXTREMELY CLOSE GAME.
WHILE IT'S STILL FRESH IN YOUR MIND,
LET'S GO OVER WHAT WE NEED TO WORK ON!
caption Yes ma am!
はい!!
IF BY "CLOSE GAME" YOU MEAN "MIRACLE"...
TODAY, THEY SHOULD GO HOME AND REST.

...!
WE CAME IN OUR CARS, SO..
Thanks For Coaching Coaches!
YES?
WE'LL CALL A TAXI IN TEN MINUTES!
NO, WE CAN'T LET UP NOW!
COACH MOMOI!
WE'LL EACH TAKE SOME OF THE KIDS.
AND DRIVE THEM TO SCHOOL!
WOW!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
LOOK HA-NA!
EH?
chatter
chatter
?

THAT'S
AH!
Nishiura

chatter
chatter
rustle
rustle
step

sfx stand


HA-NAI-KUN
YES?
MY NAME!
THAT LAST ROCKET HOME WAS REALLY AMAZING.

TO KOU-SHIEN
AH, NO, I--
IF YOU GUYS ARE ALREADY THAT GOOD AS FIRST-YEARS,
Nishiura
THEN YOU SHOULD SERIOUSLY GO ALL THE WAY--

GOOD LUCK TO YOU!
WE'LL BE ROOTING FOR YOU!
IT'S A THOUSAND CRANES THAT OUR MANAGERS FOLDED. WILL YOU HAVE IT?
HERE.
Y-
YES!
SFX clench
Thank you!
T-
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
HIS EYES ARE RED.
AN IMPRESSIVE GUY LIKE THAT WAS CRYING.
THE WAY HE LOOKS AND MOVES IS LIKE AN ADULT.
HE'S A BIG GUY.

THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY PROBLEMS WITH HIS JOINTS.
OKAY!
THE COOL-DOWN?
DID WE DO SOMETHING AMAZING OR WHAT?!
NOW, ABOVE THE THUMB...
...
MIHA-SHI!
...
THE COOL-DOWN!
HE JUST WENT UNTIL HE HAD ZERO ENERGY.
JUST LIKE A KID.
HE SURE WAS ACTING WEIRD TODAY.
LIKE HE WAS IN OVER-DRIVE.
HE'S FAST ASLEEP
I CAN'T BELIEVE HIM...

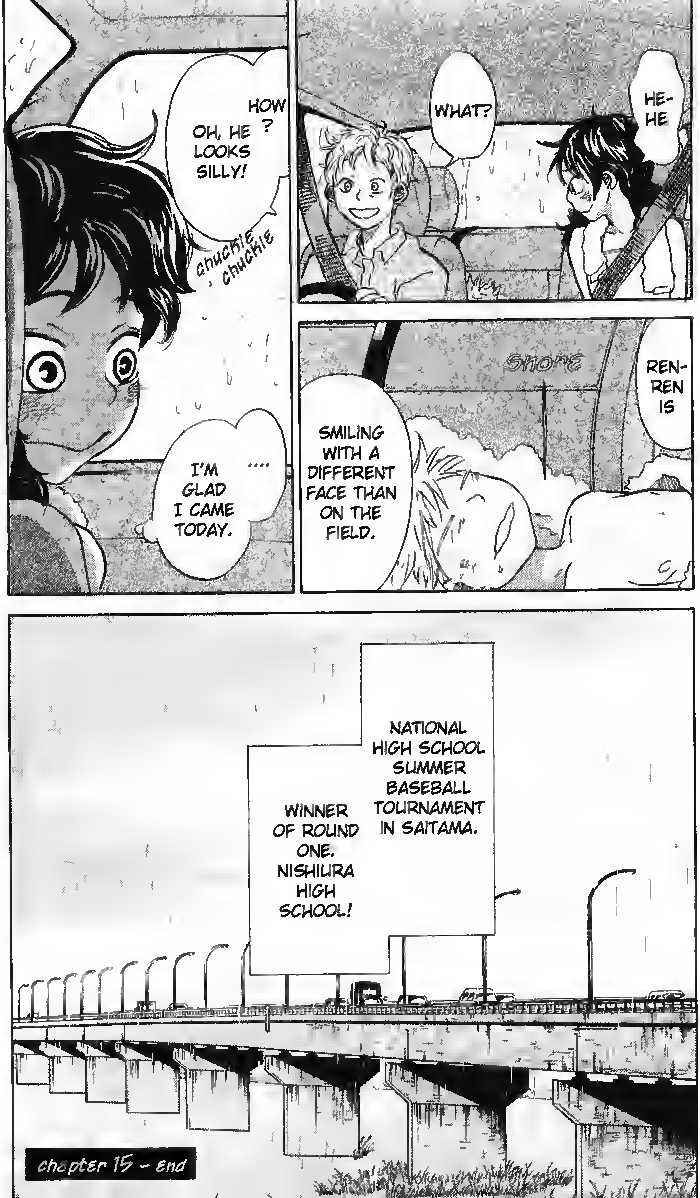
HE REALLY WAS WEIRD!
HE KEPT GRINNING FUNNY AND TALKING LOUDLY!
THAT SO?
SO I WASN'T JUST IMAGINING IT.
snore
snore
BUT IF MIHASHI HADN'T BEEN SO PUMPED UP TODAY,
phew
WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEATEN TOSEI.
MI-HA-SHI!
MIHA-SHI
knock knock
HE'S NOT WAKING UP.
LIKE HE'S IN A COMA.
snore
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM?
UM,
HM?
HE'S JUST SLEEPING.
TOSEI

UH!
HEY!
I...
?
EH
HUH?
IZ-ZAT SO?
OH.
HE'S TALL.
HIS EYES ARE A WEIRD COLOR.
stare
THE CLEAN-UP GUY...
caption I want to ask so many things!
WHAT KIND OF PRACTICE DO YOU DO?
DID YOU REALLY SEE A HABIT IN JUN-SAN?
UM!
AH...
HOW DID YOU HIT THE SINKER?
I'LL TEXT YOU LATER!
'KAY!
spin
ON MY HAND
GIVE ME YOUR CELL NUM-BER?
W-WILL YOU
EH?
SURE I GUESS
Sit
pop
UM...
WELL ...
...

I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
PLEASE DO YOUR BEST!
IF YOU GUYS LOSE RIGHT AWAY, IT'LL MAKE MY SENPAI LOOK BAD!
THERE WAS A SECOND-YEAR ON THE BENCH, TOO, BUT...
TOSEI'S FIRST-YEAR RESERVE CATCHER.
WHO WAS THAT?
BYE!
dash
...
I READ SOMEWHERE THAT HE GOT INJURED, SO THE NEXT REGULAR CATCHER IS PROBABLY THAT GUY.

WHERE'S MIHASHI-KUN?
SEEMS LIKE HE'S NOT HERE
WHY?
caption Eh?!
WELL, LET'S TAKE MIHASHI OVER.
My hobby I guess?
WHY DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?
Nishiura
sfx flop
MIHASHI'S DOWN FOR THE COUNT.
COACH!
Slide
TODAY, PLEASE TAKE YOUR SON STRAIGHT HOME.
MI-HA-SHI-SAN!
THE COACH
OKAY!
HE REALLY IS OUT.
MY, MY.
pat
Nishiura

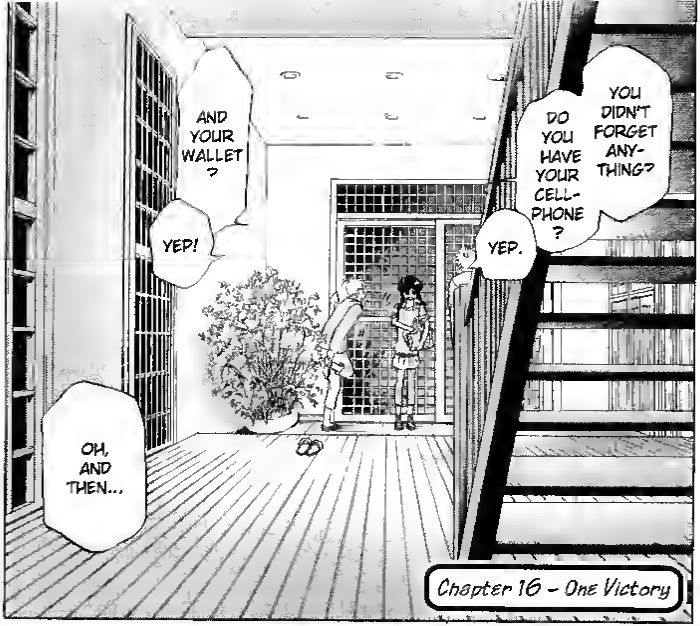
IF HE HAS A FEVER TOMORROW, WE'LL TAKE A LOOK AT PRACTICE.
OKAY.
AND-
OH, WAIT, BEFORE YOU PUT HIM IN THERE!
EEK, HE'S ALL DIRTY!
What should I do?!
HUH?
MIHASHI-KUN'S DIFFERENT THAN HE WAS ON THE FIELD...
ALL THE KIDS ARE THE SAME THOUGH
sfx flop
PHEW!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT LIVE,
BUT BASEBALL REALLY IS PRETTY INTERESTING!


HE-HE
WHAT?
REN-REN IS
SMILING WITH A DIFFERENT FACE THAN ON THE FIELD.
HOW ?
OH, HE LOOKS SILLY!
CHUCKLE, CHUCKLE
....
I'M GLAD I CAME TODAY.
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER BASEBALL TOURNAMENT IN SAITAMA.
WINNER OF ROUND ONE. NISHIURA HIGH SCHOOL!
chapter 15 - end

COME JOIN US!!

RECRUITMENT OPEN FOR ALL POSITIONS,
EXPERIENCE APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED.
JAP>ENG TRANSLATORS ESPECIALLY NEEDED.

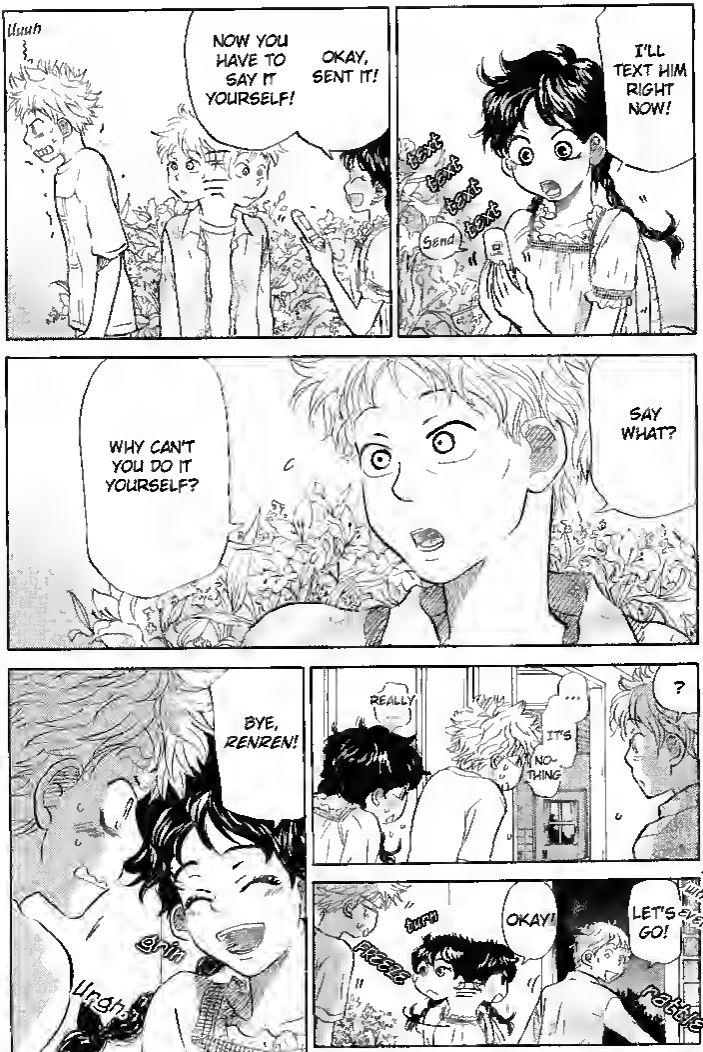
WE'RE CAPSLOCK FRIENDLY :D

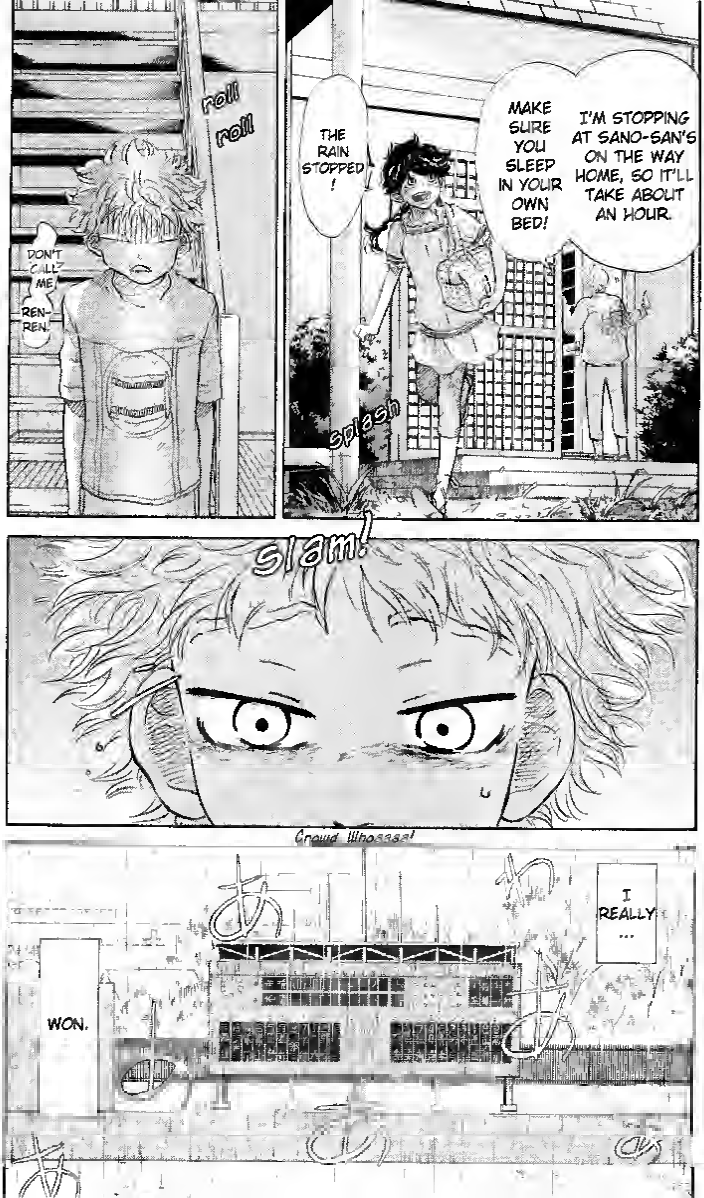

YOU DIDN'T FORGET ANY-THING?
DO YOU HAVE YOUR CELL-PHONE ?
YEP.
AND YOUR WALLET ?
YEP!
OH, AND THEN...
Chapter 16 - One Victory

IT MAKES REALLY GOOD TEA!
p-tter
p-tter
RIGHT! I HAVE SOME-THING!
A GIFT FOR YOUR FAMILY. I'LL GO GET IT RIGHT NOW!

THE NEXT GAME'S A WEEKDAY, SO I CAN'T COME, BUT ...
GOOD LUCK.
....
...CAN ...
glance

UH
TELL HIM YOURSELF!
YOU TELL KANOU-KUN WE ...
!
SIGH
WHAT ARE YOU WHINING ABOUT?
URK
DON'T TRY AND ASK RYUU TO DO IT, EITHER!
I'LL STOP HIM, TOO!
UGH
HERE YOU GO, RURI-CHAN.
RUSTLE
DID YOU THANK HER FOR COMING?
FINE. LATER, I'LL JUST
ASK RYUU ...
SIGH


Uuuh
NOW YOU HAVE TO SAY IT YOURSELF!
OKAY, SENT IT!
I'LL TEXT HIM RIGHT NOW!
text
text
text
text
Send
SAY WHAT?
WHY CAN'T YOU DO IT YOURSELF?
?
...
IT'S NO-THING
REALLY
BYE, RENREN!
Well, whatever
LET'S GO!
OKAY!
turn
rrrrrn
rattle
grin
Urgh

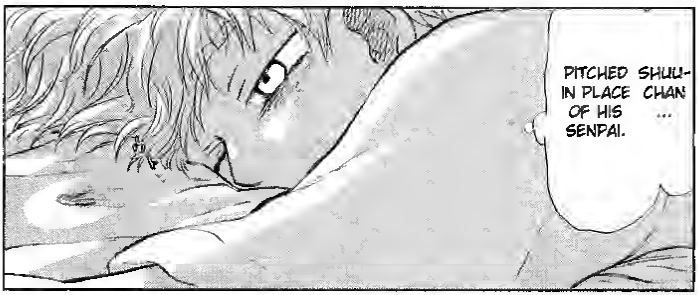

roll!
roll!
DON'T CALL ME REN-REN!
THE RAIN STOPPED!
MAKE SURE YOU SLEEP IN YOUR OWN BED!
I'M STOPPING AT SANO-SAN'S ON THE WAY HOME, SO IT'LL TAKE ABOUT AN HOUR.
Splash
Slam!
Crowd Whoosaa!
WON.
I REALLY ...

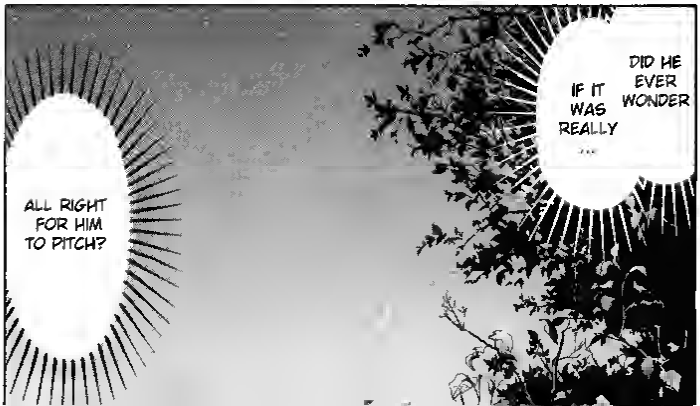
RU-RI..
SAID THAT KANOU-KUN WON.
creak
Step
I WANT
TO SAY I WON, TOO.
grip
AND THEN...
JUST TALK ... ABOUT THINGS.
MIHA-SHI, YOU'RE REALLY NOT GOING HERE FOR HIGH SCHOOL?

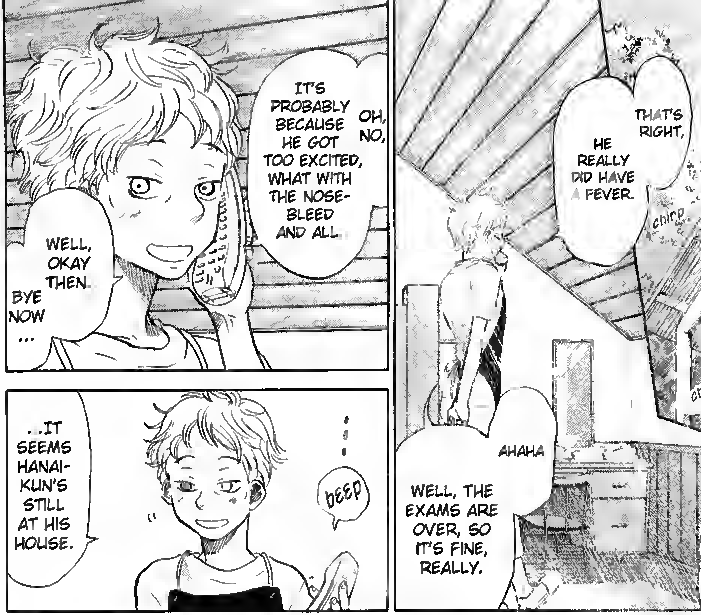
KEEP PLAYING BASEBALL RIGHT?
YOU'RE GOING TO
...
...I'M NOT
...
YOU HAVE TO JOIN THE TEAM THERE!
DON'T QUIT PLAY-ING!

IT'LL BE DIFFER -ENT FROM WHAT YOU DID 'TIL NOW.
YOU .. YOU CAN'T STOP PLAYING YET!
I DIDN'T QUIT BASE-BALL.
BUT I HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL SINCE JUNIOR HIGH.

FLOP
I DIDN'T GET OFF THE MOUND.
EVEN THOUGH I WAS TOLD TO SWITCH OUT IF I COULDN'T PITCH ANY-MORE,
M-MRGH
SQUE..S
CRSH!


PITCHED IN PLACE OF HIS SENPAI.
SHUU-CHAN ...


ALL RIGHT FOR HIM TO PITCH?
IF IT WAS REALLY ...
DID HE EVER WONDER


chirp
chirp
chirp
chirp
chirp
THAT'S RIGHT, HE REALLY DID HAVE A FEVER.
AHAHA
WELL, THE EXAMS ARE OVER, SO IT'S FINE, REALLY.
OH, NO,
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE HE GOT TOO EXCITED, WHAT WITH THE NOSE-BLEED AND ALL.
WELL, OKAY THEN. BYE NOW ...
beep
..IT SEEMS HANAI-KUN'S STILL AT HIS HOUSE.
THERE AREN'T LESSONS ANYMORE
THEY CAN SUBSTITUTE AT THE ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS TODAY
Mrrph
YOU HAVE A WEEK UNTIL THE NEXT GAME,
SO REST A LOT!
I'M HOME LATE TODAY, BUT YOUR DAD WILL BE HOME AT AROUND 8PM.
I'LL MAKE CURRY FOR LUNCH.
Owl!
Hrmm.
WE HAVE ICE CREAM, TOO.
OH, AND SOME MEDI-CINE

OKAY. WELL, I'M GOING TO SLEEP NOW.
Slide
yawn
SO SLEEPY
GOOD NIGHT
Shut
MY BODY FEELS LIKE IT'S MADE OF LEAD ..
IT SUCKS, BUT..
wheeze
IT'S HARD TO FACE EVERYONE, SO...
MAYBE IT'S KINDA GOOD, TOO.
IZUMI!
tweeet
HEAH!

WE LOST ALREADY, SO I'LL GO OVER THERE DURING LUNCH.
SOCCER, RIGHT?
dash
BY YOUR-SELF?
LOW POWER
TAJI-MA, IT'S ABE!
dash
HEY!
step step
DID MIHASHI COME?
NOPE.
HE'S AT HOME RESTING TODAY.
LOW POWER
YOU'RE GOING TO MIHASHI'S HOUSE, TOO, ABE?!
B.Am
NO, HANAI SAID HE HAD SOMETHING TO TAKE OVER THERE, SO...
caption Murata-kuuun! Go for it! Yay!
HE SAID THERE'S RICE, TOO, I THINK?
THEY'RE HAVING CURRY TODAY!
EAT? EAT WHAT?
WE'RE COMING OVER TO EAT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "TOO"?

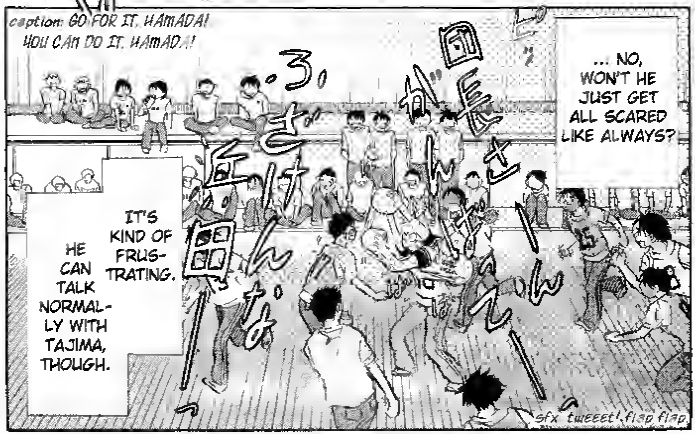
RICE??
IF THERE'S FOUR OF US, IT MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY 'FOUR OF US'?!
AAAH!
....
HE TEXTED YOU BACK?
Abe gets pissed easily
HE DID.
HE TOLD US ABOUT THE CURRY.
TAJIMA TEXTED MIHASHI THIS MORNING.
HA?!
MIHASHI SAID HE'S HAVING CURRY FOR LUNCH,
AND WE SAID WE'D COME EAT SOME, TOO.
OOH, THE BASEBALL TEAM!
WE CAME YESTERDAY!
WE'LL COME AGAIN, 'KAY?
OH, THANKS! HEY!
Thump
Guy
LOW LAYER
....
Ah! That was the clean-up guy!
Eeh?
How did you know?
SO...
WHAT DO YOU GUYS TALK ABOUT IN CLASS?
HUH?

WHEN IT'S ALL GONE, WE GET SAD...
Hmm....
OH, YEAH, I ALREADY ATE EVERY-THING TODAY, TOO...
YOU KNOW, DURING BREAKS ...
WE EAT FOOD EARLY AT BREAKS!
THEN AT LUNCH, WE EAT WHAT-EVER'S LEFT!
I know! I know!

Captions: Stuffed eggplant and Asparagus wrapped in bacon and the onigiri was sesame and salt!

I'LL GO, TOO.
YEP.
WE'RE RETURN-ING THE CHEERS!
OH, CRAP, YOU'RE RIGHT!
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO WATCH HAMADA'S GAME?
THEY'RE PLAYING BASKET-BALL?
caption Whoa!
YEAH! GO, HAMA-DA--!!
おお
sfx: bounce bounce bounce squeak squeak
caption HOSHI-DAI HO-SHIDA!
WHICH ONE?
OH, THE OUENDAN CAPTAIN!
sfx: thud thud
whap
twoosh
HEAAAH!
21

caption: AHAHA!
sfx: slinde thud!
I WONDER IF MIHASHI...
WILL BE MORE CONFIDENT IF A LOT OF PEOPLE COMPLIMENT HIM TOMORROW.


caption: GO FOR IT, HAMADA! YOU CAN DO IT, HAMADA!
... NO, WON'T HE JUST GET ALL SCARED LIKE ALWAYS?
IT'S KIND OF FRUSTRATING.
HE CAN TALK NORMALLY WITH TAJIMA, THOUGH.
sfx: tweeet! flop flop

MIHASHI'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND!
shake shake
HE HATES ME?
EH?
COULD IT BE...
ACTUALLY, HE HASN'T TEXTED ME BACK...

chirp
chirp
chirrp
blink...
chirp
chirp
tweet
tweet
chirrrp
chirrp
steam
WHAT SHOULD I DO
roll
WH-
IF IT'S ABE-KUN...
IS IT TAJI-MA-KUN?
twitch
blink
blink
chirp
chirp
blink...blink
RURI...
AH.
badump
badump
flip
press
chirrrp

"SHOULD I TELL HIM?"
... "I'LL TELL HIM MY -SELF."
chirp
chirp
bip
bip
tweet
tweet
"DID YOU TELL KANOU ?"
PHONE
"THANKS FOR COMING TO THE GAME."
sent
bip
bip
bip
OH... TAJIMA -KUN AND IZUMI -KUN ARE COMING SOON
flop
Sniff sniff

RING, RING, RING!
RING, RING, RING!
bzz bzz
bzz bzz
SFX: JUMP
WH-WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO--!
blink
blink
I HAVEN'T EVEN REPLIED TO THE LAST TEXT!
pant
Eep!
THAT WAS FA..
to: Jump
RU-RURI?
"ABE TAKAYA"
nOOOO!
EARLIER THAT DAY...
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YES-TERDAY'S GAME
shake
shake

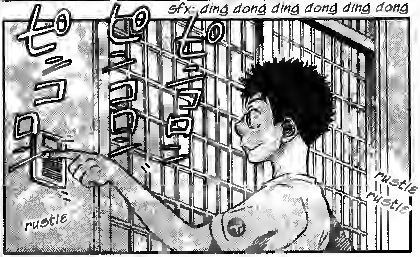
I DIDN'T GET OFF THE MOUND ...
EVEN THOUGH I WAS TOLD TO SWITCH, I DIDN'T...
TO HANAI-KUN OR OKI-KUN .. I...
tremble
Da tremble
tremble
tremble
shiii
bilirili
bilirili

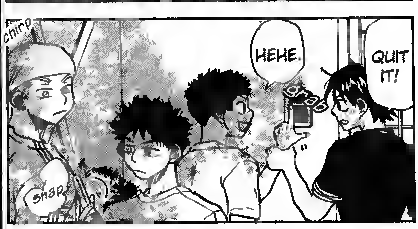
sfx shock!
キルよおー
"HANAI AND I ARE COMING TO LUNCH, TOO."
DID HE WRITE, THIS TIME...
beedump
Haa.
WHAT
Haa
beedump
twitch
beep
badump
badump

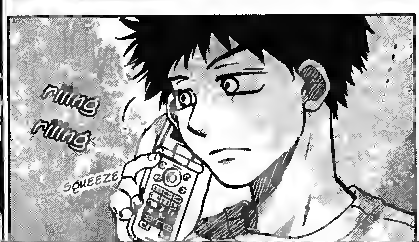
tremble
EVEN THOUGH UP UNTIL NOW,
MAYBE I WASN'T HATED BY EVERY-ONE...
Shake Shake
rant pant
OF COURSE THEY ARE, I WAS SELFISH DURING AN OF-FICIAL GAME!
HE'S BRINGING THE CAPTAIN AND THEY'RE GOING TO GET ANGRY AT ME?

sfx: BADump
sfx: ding dong
ピンポーン
ピンポーン
ピンポーン
RUN AWAY...

sfx: riling riling
ピンポンピンポン
LOW POWER
Click


sfx: ding dong ding dong ding dong
ピンポーン
ピンポーン
rustle
rustle rustle


HEHE.
QUIT IT!
snap


riing riing
SQUEEZE

sfx: BAM!
chirp
chirp
chirp
chirp
HEY, MIHASHI!
...OH
clash
CO-
COME ON IN...
Shiiide
pi
po
pi
po
badump
badump
badump
badump
dash
YOU STILL LOOK SICK.
N-
I'm coming in!
NOT
REAL -LY!
badump
sfx: flutter
sfx: riiing riiing
WHAT?!
UUUH!
THE EXAM SCORES CAME OUT THIS MORNING!
OH, RIGHT
That's a relief.
I WANTED TO BRING THEM TO SHOW YOU, BUT THEY WOULDN'T LET ME
DIDN'T FAIL ANY TESTS!
MIHA-SHI AND I
PLUS
sfx: Pheeew

rattle
wobble
HE LOOKS TIRED
badump badump
wobbles
WE
HAVE LOTS OF CURRY.
HE'S STILL DRAINED FROM YESTERDAY?
MIHASHI!
NO...
UH.
badump
DID YOU GET ON THE SCALE WHEN YOU WOKE UP?
I TOLD YOU TO CHECK IT EVERY MORNING!
I'LL STIR IT!
stir
O-
OKAY.
step step
GO DO IT BEFORE YOU EAT.

IT STILL YEAH, HURTS SOME.
Don't do it with your left hand.
Let me stir it.
simmer
YOU SHOULD PUT SOME-THING ON IT.
...
Smells good, too!
Looks good!
stir
ABE NAGS SO MUCH...
LOW POWER
TAJIMA,
DOES YOUR RIGHT HAND HURT?
HM?
simmer
YOU...
YOU GOT IN-JURED ...?
OH, MIHA-SHI IT WAS YESTER-DAY,
DURING THE FINAL AT-BAT!
mutter
mutter
I GUESS I KINDA OVERDID IT, HUH?

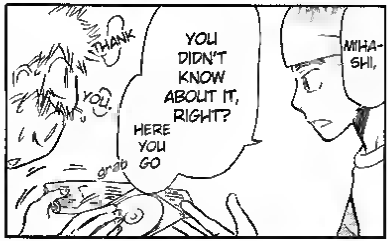
THE LAST..
WIN-NING HIT...
YEAH, THAT!
THAT FELT SOOO GOOD!
Ow, ow, ow
flip
flap
How're not hurt, are you? You fell down
I-I'm okay!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IT "FELT GOOD"?
NORMALLY, YOU CAN'T JUST SLIDE YOUR GRIP LIKE THAT.
caption: 50kg? (Note: 50k = 110lbs, 3k = 7lbs or so)
BUT WITHOUT THAT, WE WOULD HAVE LOST, HUH...
MIHA-SHI, WHAT DID THE SCALE SAY?
50キロ!!?
YOU LOST THREE KILOS ?!
caption: EEP!
I'M FIF-TY...
52... 51?
KI-LOS!
....
caption: Was 53kg at start of the school year.

HE LIKES TO TALK ABOUT FOOD...
Erik...
NO, I'VE GOT TO ACT NORMAL
...Ah.
BECAUSE I YELL AT HIM LIKE THIS, MIHA-SHI HATES M--
Eh? Me?
WHAT DID YOU EAT YESTERDAY?
SO,
trembletrembletremble
I ATE SOMETHING I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO!
THERE'S SOME REASON FOR IT.
HE ASKED SOMETHING HE DOESN'T NORMALLY ASK.
I'LL GET 'EM...
Shuffle
Shuffle
WHERE ARE THE PLATES?
D'YOU THINK IT'S DONE?
WHAAAAT?
I-
I'M SORRY!
NOPE...
pant
pant
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS LIKE PUNCHING THAT GUY SOMETIMES?!
YEAH.
stir
stir
cooking

...STILL,
MIHASHI NEVER REALLY HATES ANYONE
rattle
W-
THIS ENOUGH?
I WANT A LOT OF RICE!
WE'VE GOT SIX EGGS!
CAN WE
HAVE TWO EACH.
Ooooh!
OH, MIHA-SHI
SHE'S perse-vering
= crinkle
I CAN SUR-VIVE THIS, SOME-HOW!
IF I JUST REMEMBER THAT,
WHAT'S THAT?
MY PARENTS WANTED TO GIVE THIS TO YOURS.
HERE
badump
crinkle crinkle

WE HAVE IT TOO
OH, YEAH.
US, TOO!

YESTERDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL NEWS
shuffle
AND TODAY'S PAPER.


THANK YOU
grab
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
HERE YOU GO
MIHASHI,

IN THE PAPER, IT'S HERE ON THE SPORTS PAGE.
THEY ONLY HAVE THE RESULTS THOUGH, BECAUSE THERE WERE A LOT OF MATCHES.
tap
rustle

ON THE OTHER HAND, MY PARENTS WATCH THIS TYPE OF THING EVERY YEAR WHETHER IT HAS TO DO WITH ME OR NOT
Yeah let's eat!
Let's eat!
THEY HAVEN'T SEEN IT
Yeah I haven't seen it! Let's watch it while we eat!
EH...
WANT TO LOOK NOW?
THEY SHOULD BE SHOWING THE REPORT ON TV AGAIN TONIGHT.
of rice
Lots

caption Hurry hurry!
Stare
Ugh
POW!
はい
sfx: Bam!
caption Looks good! Let's eat!
いただきます
いっぱいそおっ
LOOKS GOOD!
sfx: Chomp
MMM!
んっ
んまぁ!

I LOVE CARROTS! THE BIG
Let's move on
CHICKEN CURRY IS SO GOOD!
chew
to the results of the matches
THE WEATHER WAS UNFORTUNATELY GLOOMY, BUT NONETHELESS, MANY EXCITING GAMES WERE PLAYED AT THE MAIN STADIUMS TODAY!
chatter chatter
GOOD evening, EVERYONE!
Eep!
Ow, ow!
You always do that?
Do you always do that?
No way!
They do!
HE'S GOT AN APPETITE,
BUT THREE KILOS IS PRETTY BAD.
gobble
I'LL HAVE HIM EAT MORE ONIGIRI STARTING TOMORROW...
munch
munch
IN THE FIRST GAME, HARUNA CAME IN AT THE MIDDLE OF MUSASHINO DAIICHI'S GAME...
HA-
HARUNA-SAN!
FROM THE FOURTH TO NINTH INNING, HE PITCHED A PERFECT GAME AND LED HIS TEAM TO VICTORY!
Swallow
HARUNA-SAN
WOW
IS M--

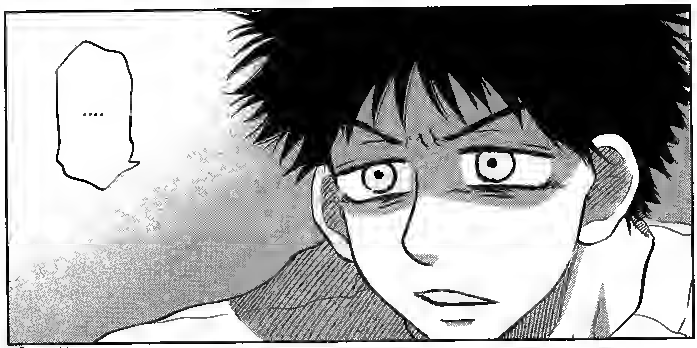
badump
WELL, OBVIOUSLY.
THEY'RE THE C SEED.
CHEW
sfx fume
B-
gulp
BUT
D-
DI-
DIDN'T
WE
WI-
...
BUT
...
WELL
clink
...BUT ?

grin
WIN,
TOO ...?
LOW
Y-YEAH
chew chew
YOU CAN'T ASSUME IT'S "OBVIOUS" JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE SEEDED.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
EH-
Sur-prised
UM.
munch munch
WELL
gnbble gnbble
WE TALKED ABOUT IT IN THE MEETING YESTERDAY, BUT...
....
WHY DO YOU THINK WE WON?
MIHA-SHI,
chew

caption Okya-ri is a short Okawari = I'm going for a second (meal)

DUR-ING THE GAME, ABE-KUN GOT REALLY ANGRY AT ME.
EVEN IF I COULDN'T PITCH, I DIDN'T GET OFF THE MOUND.
I THOUGHT I COULD BECOME THE "REAL ACE" OF THIS TEAM...

BUT...
I HAVEN'T
CHANGED AT ALL.


....

sfx rattle
DON'T GLARE AT HIM LIKE THAT.
It looks bad
sniff
TSK
TAJIMA, IS THERE CURRY LEFT?
I ATE IT ALL.
dribble
WELL, I KNOW HOW HE FEELS.

EVEN IF HE GOT HIT, I WOULDN'T HAVE COMPLAINED.
SO I SHOUTED THAT TO HIM
click
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH YESTERDAY,
AH, THANKS
steam
steam
I'LL GET A PLATE.
I THOUGHT THAT MIHASHI WOULD DEFINITELY GIVE IT HIS ALL.
I WASN'T LYING,
BUT...
THAT TYPE OF THING IS ONLY NATURAL.
I'VE FELT SOME SORT OF RESPECT FOR ALL THE PITCHERS I'VE BACKED UP UNTIL NOW.
IT'S NORMAL FOR THE FIELDERS TO SHOUT OUT TO THE PITCHER.

It's annoying when he gets all smelly!
THERE ARE A BUNCH OF OTHER LITTLE THINGS, TOO!
THERE'VE BEEN PLENTY OF TIMES WHEN I WOULD'VE SNAPPED IF ABE HADN'T!

*Kare itadakimasu = The curry looks good!

I-
rattle
OH, BUT HE'S REPLYING.
RAN-DOM
SO WHY DID YOU GO TO NISHIURA, MIHASHI?
PU HA
blink
WASN'T THAT MIHO-SHI?
chew
HIS MOM'S ?
MY MOM'S
IT'S
SCHOOL!
...OH.
YOUR MOM'S A NISHIURA GRADUATE!
OH, I SEE!
bite
HOW DOES HE GET ALL THAT...
YEAH, THERE'S NO UNIFORM OR TRANSPOR-TATION COST, EITHER!
WHAT ...? UH...
OH!
blink
UNI-FORM
AND THE BIKES

chirp
..
BE-CAUSE OF THE MONEY
..
IF I DIDN'T GO TO MIHOSHI,
embarrassed
NISHIURA WAS THE ONLY OTHER CHOICE
SO IF HE DIDN'T GET INTO NISHIURA, HE WAS SUPPOSED TO GO BACK TO MIHOSHI?
THERE'S NO WAY THEY HAVE MONEY PROB-LEMS.
buzz buzz (decades)
DIDN'T THEY JUST WANT HIM TO GO TO MIHOSHI?
brash
MY ASSESS-MENT WAS BAD,
SO
I STUDIED REALLY HARD!
..OH, RIGHT.
THAT'S HOW BAD WE WANTED TO LEAVE MIHOSHI?!
Ergh
Mihashi studied hard?!

Eh.
buzz
buzz
buzz
WHAT ABOUT YOU, TAJIMA?
ME?
BECAUSE IT'S CLOSE!
AREN'T THERE SCHOOLS WITHIN BIKING DISTANCE THAT WANTED YOU?
turn
AND
THE MONEY, DIDN'T YOU GET SCHO-LAR-SHIPS?
DID HE REALLY GET ALL THAT?
crash
crash
WELL,
WHEN I USED TO HAVE PRAC-TICE BY THE RIVERBED, MY GREAT-GRANDPA COLLAPSED.
GREAT...
GRAND-PA!?
WHEN I GOT THE MESSAGE ON MY CELL-PHONE,
I TRIED CALLING BACK BUT EVERY-ONE HAD GONE TO THE HOSPITAL AND I COULDN'T REACH THEM!
YEAH.
HOS-PITALS USUALLY CUT OFF RECEP-TION.
WHEN I GOT HOME, NOBODY WAS THERE...

OH, MAN, WAS I SCARED!
I WAS SOOO SCARED!
rattle
rattle
rattle
rattle
rattle
smile
THE WHOLE FAMILY HAD ALL GONE TO THE HOSPITAL!
of them!
AND THEY ALL ATE DINNER AND DIDN'T GET HOME UNTIL 10PM!
THEY COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT ME!
THEY ALL THOUGHT I WAS THERE WITH SOMEONE ELSE!
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS IN A BIG FAMILY!
OH.
You don't think about it.
SO ... YOUR GREAT-GRAND-PA IS ...?
HE'S FINE!
huff
turn

BUT HE'S REALLY GETTING UP THERE.
WE'VE GOT ALL THE OTHER GRAND PARENTS, TOO...
IF I GO TO NISHIURA, I'LL KNOW IF AN AMBULANCE COMES.
EH.
SO THAT'S WHY?!
THIS WAY, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT FOR THREE YEARS!
WHOA!
THANKS, TAJIMA'S GREAT-GRANDPA!
ACTUALLY, THAT'S KIND OF WRONG!
THANKS FOR HAVING A BIG FAMILY!
I had to study really hard too!
Oh!
SO HE HAD A REASON.
I JUST DECIDED ON IT BECAUSE IT'S EASY TO GET INTO AND NOT TOO FAR.

DIDN'T YOU COME OVER AT SPRING BREAK WITH SAKAEGUCHI, ABE?
I INVITED HIM FOR SPRING BREAK, BUT I LOOKED AROUND BY MYSELF FIRST.
I DECIDED AFTER I SAW THE BASEBALL FIELD.
SAME HERE.
OH
WHAT ...
I KNEW HIS FACE FROM THE SENIORS, BUT WE WERE NEVER IN THE SAME CLASS
THE FIRST TIME WE REALLY TALKED WAS ON THE DAY OF THE ENTRANCE EXAM.
AND THEN ALL HE DID WAS GO TO THE CRAPPER.
I think I'll have some more!
shovel shovel
gobble gobble
SO YOU'RE NOT FRIENDS FROM JUNIOR HIGH?
WHADDYA MEAN, "WHAT"?
WASN'T SHE THERE, TOO?
HUH?
WHAT?
WHAT ABOUT SHINOOKA?
slide

I can't believe you, man!
OH, NO, WAIT, I THINK WE WERE IN THE SAME STUDY GROUP FOR EXAMS.
whap
LOW
...HM?
DON'T THINK SO..
HUH?
click
SHE SAID THEY MOVED HOUSES LAST YEAR
munch
munch
I THINK SHE TAKES THE TRAIN TO SCHOOL.
BUT ISN'T HER HOUSE THE WRONG WAY?
steam
sfx bedum!
caption: Mrrmprhh mmffrg!
OH! MIHASHI!
I'LL JUST STAY QUIET AND WATCH ...
HAVING FUN.
EVERY-BODY'S
chew
chew
chew
SHE MOVED TO HER MOM'S FAMILY'S PLACE.
WHAT?!

LISTEN, ON THE TV!
NEXT UP, FROM THE ASAKA AREA BASEBALL STADIUM.
WE HAD THE B-SEED TOSEI HIGH SCHOOL GETTING KNOCKED OUT IN THE FIRST ROUND!
gulp
IN THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL GAME AS A TEAM,
NISHI-URA HIGH SCHOOL PRE-VAILED,
ANCHORED BY THEIR FIRST-YEAR PITCHER, MIHASHI,
SFX shock!
まぢよぉ?
WHO PITCHED A COM-PLETE GAME!
WHOA!
THEY SAID MIHASHI'S NAME!
EVEN THOUGH I GAVE UP RUNS,
THEY SAID MY NAME ON TV!
I'M REAL-LY IN TROUBLE.
THAT'S RIGHT, EVERYONE CAME TO SCOLD ME, AFTER ALL...

I'M JUST
tears up
GOING TO RUIN IT FOR THEM.
HAVING A GOOD TIME,
EVEN THOUGH EVERY-ONE WAS
I'll also get some curry.
I TRY TO KEEP QUIET.
IT'S NO USE EVEN IF
WHA ?!
WHAT FOR?
UH.
HE'S CRYING.
shock
sfx wipe
TELL ME
THEY'RE SICK OF IT.
DO SOME-THING BEFORE THEY...
HAVE I TO
What is he crying for?
?
WAS IT SOME-THING I SAID?

sfx thunk
ACTING SO
I'M SORRY FOR
SELFISH-LY YES-TER-DAY!!

OH, THAT WAS A LIE.
YOU MEAN GOING HOME EARLY?
?
SELF-ISH?
BUT I
GET OFF THE MOUND
TOLD ME TO...
A... BE-KUN

A
iie??
caption: A I-I-IEEE
PLIN
A-
Eh-?
Eh
WORRY MORE ABOUT THAT TIME WHEN YOU STALLED BEFORE THROWING TO ME.
SO-
SORRY
ABOUT THAT ...
JUST DON'T DO IT AGAIN.
IT HURTS ME, TOO.
steam
IT..

IT'S OKAY.
AS LONG AS YOU KNOW.
... I'M
REAL- LY
..
SOR- RY
HE PROB- ABLY DOESN'T GET
WHAT WAS REALLY THE WORST PART, BUT...
AS LONG AS HE KNOWS IT WAS WRONG,
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
Tasty!
munch
munch
PUMA

SO THE
TEXT FROM
YES-TER-DAY
WAS ...
badump "
bedump
OH, YEAH, THAT.
YOU DIDN'T DO THE COOL DOWN BEFORE GOING HOME, SO I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU WERE.
HEY, WAIT, IF YOU SAW MY TEXT,
grind
grind
grind
WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU REPLY BACK?!
IF YOU'RE DONE EATING, DO SOME STRETCHING!
IF THAT'S NOT ANGRY, I DUNNO WHAT IS.
I'm NOT Angry!!!
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ANGRY!
that
YOU'D BE-
CAN YOU GIVE MAS-SAGES, ABE?
MAYBE JUST STRETCHING ISN'T ENOUGH.

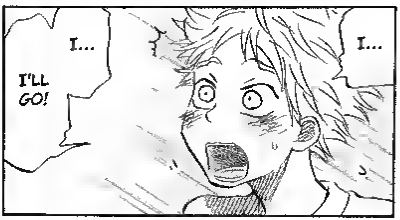
IF SHIGAPO COMES BY TODAY, WE'LL SEE IF HE CAN COME.
IF NOT, WE CAN TAKE YOU TO A MASSEUSE.
I'VE ...
NEVER BEEN TO ONE.

AREN'T YOU STIFF, MIHASHI?

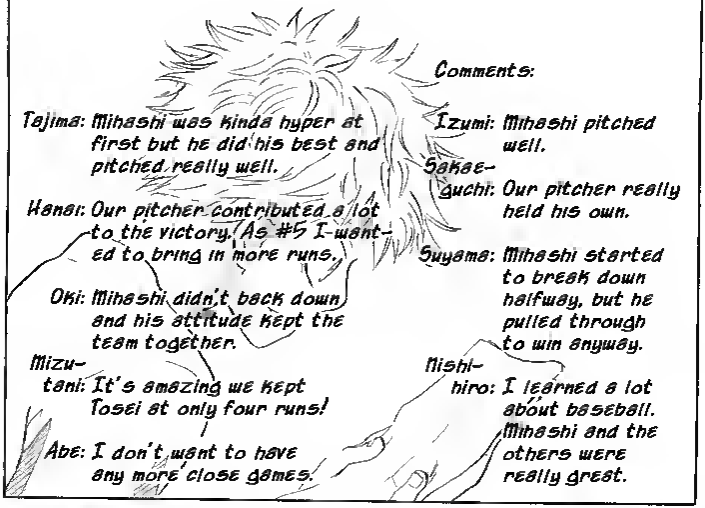
SHIGAPO SAID THAT UNTRAINED PEOPLE SHOULDN'T OVERWORK THEIR MUSCLES.

Where at?
Seitou.
It's always crowded there.
But it's good and it's cheap!
TO ...
TOGETHER...

IT'S RIGHT NEXT DOOR!
OOH, TODAY I'M GOING TO THE DOCTOR, SO WE CAN GO TOGETHER.


I...
I'LL GO!
I...

MI-HA-SHI!
turn
HERE'S THE MEETING NOTES FROM YESTER-DAY.
SHINOOKA MADE A COPY FOR YOU.
...
rustle
TAKE A LOOK.
Oh
crinkle
IT'S EVERY-BODY'S COM-MENTS
glance
glance
flip

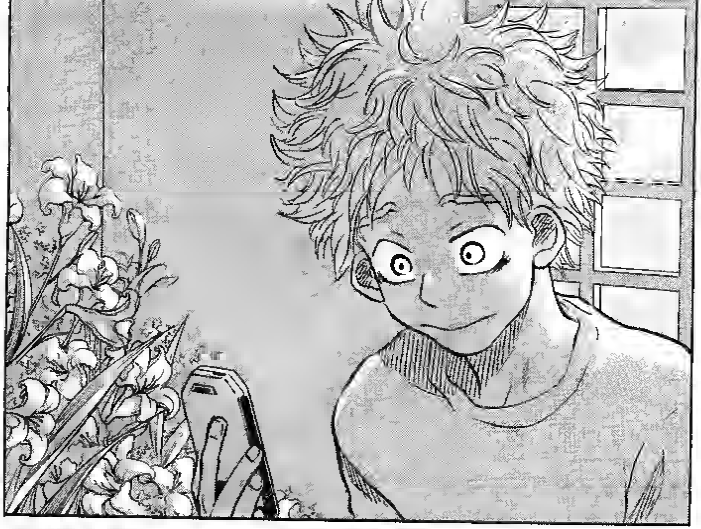

Comments:
Tajima: Mihashi was kinda hyper at first but he did his best and pitched really well.
Izumi: Mihashi pitched well.
Sakaeguchi: Our pitcher really held his own.
Kanai: Our pitcher contributed a lot to the victory. As #5 I wanted to bring in more runs.
Suyama: Mihashi started to break down halfway, but he pulled through to win anyway.
Oki: Mihashi didn't back down and his attitude kept the team together.
Mizutani: It's amazing we kept Tosei at only four runs!
Nishihiro: I learned a lot about baseball. Mihashi and the others were really great.
Abe: I don't want to have any more close games.

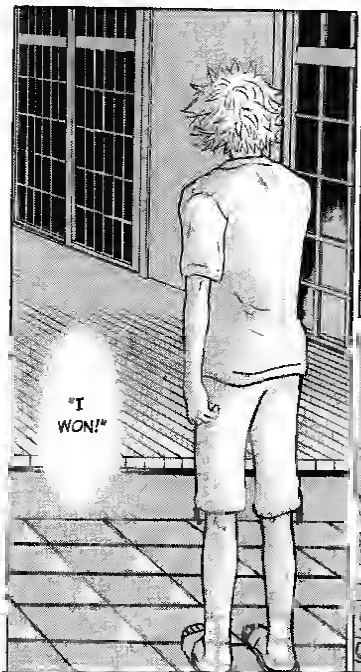
NO ... NORM ...
YOU KNOW, NOBODY IS BEING TREATED SPECIAL OR ANYTHING.
shake
shake
shake
...
TO SAY ABOUT YESTERDAY.
THIS IS THE NORMAL THING

WE'RE JUST NORMAL KIDS
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
RIGHT?
WE'RE JUST PLAYING BASEBALL LIKE NORMAL.
YOU ...
YOU CAN'T STOP PLAYING YET!
WHAT YOU DID UNTIL NOW
IT'LL BE DIFFERENT THAN

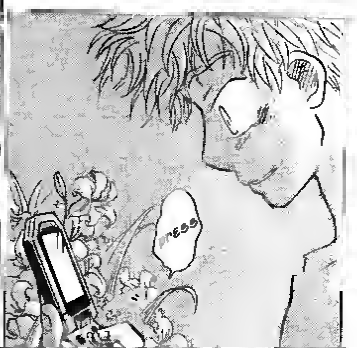
buzz
buzz
buzz
WELL, IF I HEAR FROM SHIGAPO, I'LL SEND YOU A TEXT.
turn
LET'S DO THAT STRETCHING.
OKAY, IF YOU'RE DONE TAKING A BREAK,
PHE EEE EEW
Squeez
OKAY, BEND OVER.
buzz
croak
buzz
croak
buzz
croak
OKAY!
MIHASHI! I MIGHT SEE YOU LATER!
Y
YEAH!
THIS TIME, MAKE SURE TO REPLY.
buzz
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
buzz
buzz
croak
croak
croak
YOU'RE BACK TOMORROW, RIGHT?
TOMORROW
SEE YOU
LA-
LATER!
glance
glance

... SO IT'S NORMAL TO BE
breath
THIS GLAD ...
EVERY-BODY
AND TELL HIM A-BOUT
I WANT TO TALK TO SHUU-CHAN ..
buzz
croak
RING! RING! RING!
surprised
IT'S OKAY.
IT'S OKAY
bip
badump
badump




"I WON!"

New Message
Kenji Shinjo


mess

SHUU-CHAN.
"MY TEAM-MATES AND I WON, TOO!"
buzz
buzz
"I WON, TOO."
buzz

二宮学園高等部
硬式野球部専用グラウンド
"I'M GLAD I KEPT PLAYING BASEBALL."
"THANK YOU, SHUU-CHAN."
Meeting time!
DON'T GET CAUGHT WITH YOUR PHONE
KA-NOU, BREAK'S OVER
WHAT THE HELL, CALLING ME "SHUU-CHAN"!
Eh? But I called you Kanou

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK,
grin
CALL-ING ME THAT,
JUST LIKE WHEN WE WERE KIDS!
TAKE-SAN GOT WAY TOO INTO IT ...
BYE ...
LATER, RIO!
I'M STARV-ING
HEY, I'M HOME ....
click

WHAT'S UP, LOSER!
OH ... NIICHAN, YOU'RE HOME.
I JUST CAME HOME TO DO MY LAUNDRY. LOSER!
WAIT A S...
WHAT IS IT, LOSER?
QUIT CALLIN' ME THAT

grab
EVERYBODY DID THEIR BE....
DON'T SPEW CRAP JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE YOUR FRIENDS.
grab
thud
THAT RIGHT THERE IS WHY I DIDN'T INVITE YOU TO BIJOU.
IF PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE THE REGULARS NEXT YEAR, TOSEI WILL
LOSE THE FIRST ROUND AGAIN!

ARE YOU BITTER, RIO?
WAH
OKAY, THEN
U-
UUUH
YOUR BIG BROTHER CAN HELP YOU GET REVENGE FOR YOUR TEAMMATES.
BRING ME ALL OF NISHIURA'S GAME DATA.
IF YOU STAY IN CONTACT WITH TAJIMA,
THEY'LL FALL RIGHT INTO OUR TRAP!

CHAPTER 16 END

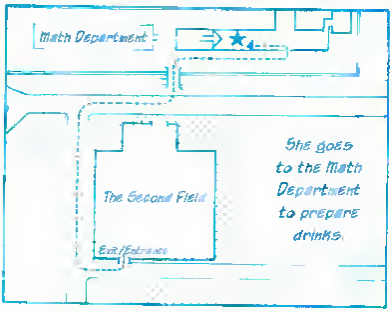
COME JOIN US!!

RECRUITMENT OPEN FOR ALL POSITIONS,
EXPERIENCE APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED.
JAP>ENG TRANSLATORS ESPECIALLY NEEDED.

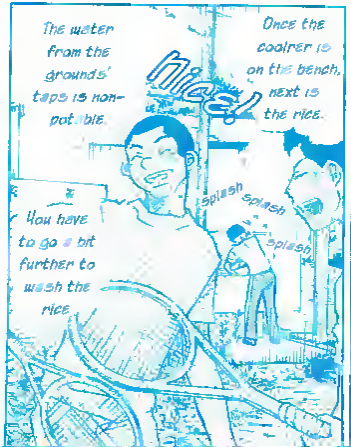
WE'RE CAPSLOCK FRIENDLY :D

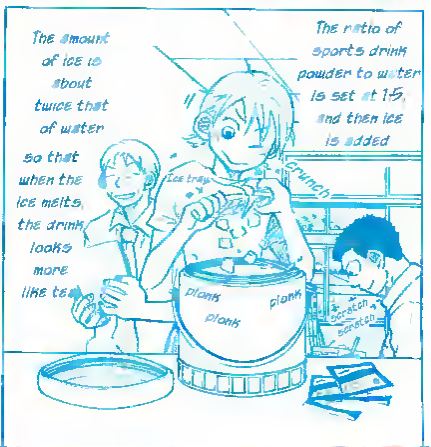
Feels good!
She works quickly while the players are warming up.
The color of the ground gets quickly changed!
I actually enjoy this work!
Splash
Splash
Splash

With just a few sprays of water, the whole space is sparkling clean.
Once, twice, three, four—!
The first task at the beginning of the afternoon is watering the grounds.
Chiro chiro
Chiro
Splash splash


Math Department
The Second Field
Exit/Entrance
She goes to the Math Department to prepare drinks.

Clank!
Okay!
When the players finish their warm up, they come in to do catching exercises.
The drinking cooler is fastened to the bike.
Whoops!
Okay
Chiro chiro


The water from the grounds' taps is non-potable.
Once the cooler is on the bench, next is the rice.
Nice!
You have to go a bit further to wash the rice.
Splash splash
Splash


The amount of ice is about twice that of water so that when the ice melts, the drink looks more like tea.
The ratio of sports drink powder to water is set at 1:5, and then ice is added
Crunch
Ice tray
Plank plank
Plank
Scratch scratch

During break, she makes a second run to prepare more drinks

On the way, she also picks up the ingredients for the onigiri

whoosh

school

Sometimes she buys more baseballs or repairs them herself

Run faster! You can do it!

Don't hit it where we can't get it back!

After this depending on the day she goes out the balls for hitting practice

She also sometimes tapes videos to do form checks with

And she finishes the onigiri by putting in the filling decided upon in the morning

Two of this one of that

The shape is fixed

Shape

Using two bowls, she makes it like this!

CLAMP

pad

ROUND

Shake Shake

The newly-cooked rice is very hot so pat pat

Steam Steam

After the rice is cooked, it's time to make the onigiri

If you have long practices it's good to take lots of breaks! This is so you don't get hurt or hungry

I'm starving!

that's about the end of the day for her

Giving the onigiri out to everyone,

Mmm! So good!

Mmm

Wow, it's so good!

scratch

After the onigiri is done, she goes again for drinks

(After the second time, it's tea)

whoosh

Chapter 16 - END